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TRADE WARRIORS
LAUNCH AN ATTACK

EXCLUSIVE

CULT OF HORROR

THE INSIDE STORY OF
THE 'MOST BIZARRE
AND VIOLENT
GROUP IN THE
HISTORY OF
CANADIAN
CRIME'

A black and white close-up portrait of Roch Thériault, a man with a thick, dark beard and mustache, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

Cult leader and convicted
murderer Roch Thériault, now
in a Kingston penitentiary



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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE FEBRUARY 8, 1993 VOL. 101 NO. 6

CONTENTS

4 EDITORIAL

6 LETTERS

10 OPENING NOTES/PASSAGES

Craig Dobbin's rare fish pond, what the good thing really has on its mind, a jury maps a killer's trail of mayhem, Gen. de Chastelain survives a political alibi, Radio-Canada risks a royal cleanup, Alvin tops the bar-office charts.

13 COLUMN/DIANE FRANCOIS

14 CANADA

Jeanne Sauvé, a brilliant advocate for Canada, lived her life with warmth and grace

16 COVER

26 SPORTS WATCH/TRENT FRAYNE

29 PEOPLE

30 WORLD

President Bill Clinton gets good and bad economic reports in his first full week in office; the White House's Bay Wander runs afoul of the fourth estate; Britain's M-5 lifts the veil a fraction; a Vietnam wife still awaits a final account of her missing husband's fate.

38 BUSINESS

The latest steel war threatens the survival of some Canadian companies; charter airlines are looking confidently to the future.

44 BUSINESS WATCH/PETER C. NEWMAN

49 EDUCATION

Despite its controversial format, Youth News Network claims that it will be seen in more than 100 schools with no debate this year.

51 SPACE

A Korean plan to deploy a space rescue has captured the imagination of scientists and amateur astronomers.

52 LIFESTYLES

54 FILMS

Set amid the surrealistic rhythms of the bygone, John Styler's *Pension Fish* is a slow-burning gem of a movie.

55 BOOKS

By turns brilliant and self-indulgent, *Isabella* is a devastating tale of the beauty—and wastefulness—of war.

56 FOTHERINGHAM

COVER

CULT OF HORROR

Reith Thérinault saw himself as an emissary of God, but in his victims he was a beast from hell. Maclean's has pieced together the sordid story of Thérinault's bizarre cult, a shocking 11-year saga that claimed the lives of at least two people, left several others permanently injured and inflicted emotional scars on many of the 25 children Thérinault fathered with his eight "wives." — 18

CANADA

THE OTTAWA BETTING GAME

Like Pierre Trudeau in the winter of 1984, Brian Mulroney keeps Canadians guessing about his plans. And like the Liberals at 250-4, the Tories appear divided, uncertain and increasingly impatient with their leader. In those factors, some Conservatives can add another dimension. — 14



LIFESTYLES

LUST ON THE LINE

Feeling lonely or repressed people to enjoy their sexual fantasies has become a full-time job for hundreds of men and women employed by thriving sex-line operators in Ontario and Québec. But for Ashley Fenwick and other people who work the lines the appeal is money, not romance. — 53





The Cult Of Horror

The short article in the Kingston, Ont., *Whig-Standard* on July 15 was full of praise for what it described as "the latest addition to the Millhaven business scene." The new enterprise, a small bakery run by three Quebec women in their 30s, Francoise Lafontaine, Nicole Ruel and Christine Latre, who turn out "delicious batches of fresh white bread," as well as whole wheat loaves, buns, pies and other pastries. The three women "had good friends in Kingston," the article said, "who had heard from a belly professor and urged them to move here." In fact, there was one friend in particular—Roch Theriault, a self-styled prophet and the former leader of one of the country's most violent and notorious crime scenes, the Aut Hill Kids, to which all three of the women belonged.

Now serving a life sentence in Millhaven Institution for the second-degree murder of one of his disciples, Theriault enjoys regular company visits from Lafontaine, his common-law wife. The fact that she, Ruel and Latre have rented houses within a few hundred yards of Millhaven's gates is only one indication of the powerful bond that continues to exist between the 45-year-old former wood-carver and those who adore him. Indeed, together the three women have borne 11 of Theriault's 27 children.

August of this reporting for the shocking story contained in this week's cover package, Ontario Bureau Chief Paul Kishka visited Lafontaine and her bakery, and interviewed a range of investigators and former cell-mates. He and National Editor Ross Laver then wrote the main story with additional reporting by Montreal Bureau Chief Barry Caine and Correspondent Ann McLaughlin. Also included in the package is Senior Writer Tom Petricola's analysis of the strange bond that exists over notorious people.



Kishka at bakery: a powerful bond continues to exist between a killer and those who adore him

Kevin Wray

Maclean's

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LETTERS

Leave them alone

Can anyone without a heart of stone keep from feeling sorry for the trials and tribulations of the Royal Family ("A pillow-talk scandal," World, Jan. 26)? I find people's grief can come from the relentless exposure of their human faults and inadequacies? We can draw an obvious moral from the story: that devastating consequences flow from failed relationships. The moral needs to be not merely rubbed on our faces but kneaded into our hearts and souls. Let us not simply observe but learn, and look for perfection elsewhere.

Pat McIninch
Bremery, B.C.

'A not-so-kind world'

Former president George Bush's "Return Engagement" (World, Jan. 25) was not just a lesson long hidden behind his smile. It was a lesson long hidden behind his smile. It was a lesson long hidden behind his smile. It was a lesson long hidden behind his smile.

Paul Miller
Downsview, Ont.

The whole picture

Everyone demands higher levels of achievement in education, but articles such as yours rarely discuss the real solutions to the problems ("What's wrong at school?" Special report, Jan. 11). In every student case to school, we have every day a very student arrived after a full night of tranquil sleep, with a full stomach, a very student was supported and encouraged by both parents. This would levels of performance skyrocket. All the energy of teachers is applied trying to perform the tasks of both teachers and parents that they often have to cope with the effects of poor parenting. The fact that our graduates are so knowledgeable as they are speaks to the dedication and ingenuity of our teachers and the adaptability of the educational system.

Vivian L. Perry
Vancouver

Byron Public Board of Education
Byron

I am writing in reference to your special report "What's wrong at school?" In all of your discussion on this matter I find it very curious that you didn't ask the children. As consumers at



Charles and Diane: the relentless exposure of human faults and inadequacies

this system, the children will give you some insights into what's wrong at school.

Arnold Smith, Executive Director,
The Children's Aid Society
of the County of Essex,
Windsor, Ont.

'Perpetuating myths?'

Peter C. Newman perpetuates an unfortunately durable myth when he writes that Quebec's Premier Robert Bourassa "disseminated untruthful coverage during the 1970s and 1980s" ("Business's blunders touch us all at us," Business Week, Jan. 28). As a member of cabinet during that difficult episode, I can testify to the courage and coolness with which the premier handled a complex and unstable situation. One of the bases of the myth is the fact that a deluge broke over the top floor of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, and met there and at the premier's office in the nearby Hydro Quebec building, rather than returning to Quebec City. The reason for so doing was that the nerve centre of the province's police operations was in Montreal, and that briefing, sometimes more than once a day, by the now the Quebec provincial police and the Montreal Urban Community Police were greatly facilitated. History will, I hope, exempt this useful shot on a public servant who is just now displaying exceptional courage in another and even more daunting context.

Victor C. Gauthier,
Commissioner of Official Languages,
Ottawa

Not the first

In its introduction to your Jan. 18 piece "The rising stars," on the Hon. Jim Campbell as the first minister to handle both departments, national defence and veterans' affairs (Canada, Jan. 18), your research is not correct. The late Hon. Alex McKeen held both portfolios during Joe Clark's short term in prime minister in 1979. As well, the Hon. J. G. L. Lacombe held both portfolios from 1980-1981.

Senator Jack Marshall,
Ottawa

More to it

Your recent article in the Jan. 18 issue concerning visits to Taiwan by Canadian envoys approved to be such an important but did not adequately present important historical background ("Oriental experts," Canada). Canada and Taiwan do not have diplomatic relations with each other for reasons related to the history of China. As a result, the governments of Taiwan must seek to foster and manage its many relationships with Canada through "quasi-diplomatic" mechanisms. Canada must do the same. Taiwan, because of its circumstances, simply works harder and devotes more resources to this. My visit to Taiwan was well organized and informative. The secretaries I received as gifts were modest and appropriate to the occasion, and there was never any reference to sexual issues by anyone. I hope this provides a more positive perspective on this issue.

Derek Lee, M.P.
Ottawa

Letters may be condensed. Please supply name, address and daytime telephone number. Write letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, Maclean's Magazine, 100 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5H 2S4. Tel. (416) 593-1200.



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COLUMN



Bill Clinton's new headache: urban decay

BY DIANE FRANCIS

A report last year by the Alexandria, Va.-based National Center on Institutions and Alternatives dropped a racial bombshell—it found that 42 per cent of young black men in Washington, D.C., were in jail, on bail, on parole, probation or wanted for arrest. Even worse was the fact that 50 per cent of Baltimore's black males between 18 and 35 years of age were also under some form of criminal justice supervision. Center spokesman Jerome Miller said that other U.S. cities were being studied, but there was little reason to believe that the percentages were any different. "We're also looking at Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Detroit and Chicago, and while the studies are not complete, initial figures suggest those are very much in line—somewhere between 40 per cent and 50 per cent. And all indications are that the trend is up."

Of course, it should be noted that crime is feared among all ethnic and racial groups in the United States, and also that the lion's share of the reported crimes were associated with a white, not a black, victim. In Washington, D.C., the Center's report reveals that the biggest challenge for President Bill Clinton may be economics as much as dealing with the sociology of America's inner cities. Clearly America's cities continue to be hopeless places where drug use and drug dealing is so pervasive that they may have already become an acceptable, much way of life. Not surprisingly, this alternative lifestyle within the bosom of American society explains the popularity of describing rap music and lyrics that celebrate criminal behavior. Some says call for youths to perform antisocial acts, or even, as *Cap 2300* by Joe-T, threaten to murder police officers. "This, in time, helps in four police society."

The Center's report shows that 30 years of tiered rights legislation gave blacks more opportunities, they still face basic problems. And in many parts to drugs and crime, there

U.S. cities continue to be hopeless places where drug use and dealing are so pervasive that they may have become an acceptable way of life

is enhanced fear and resentment by whites who suspect themselves to safe suburbs. Meanwhile, cities are left decaying and inner-city residents are subjected to violent wars among drug lords, ethnic groups and gang groups.

Last year's Los Angeles riot was triggered by a white, not a black, victim. In Minneapolis, cities are left decaying and inner-city residents are subjected to violent wars among drug lords, ethnic groups and gang groups.

People fear that the city may once again fall victim to note this year if a report of the four police results again in capital. However, a trial to be held on the beating by a black man of white truck driver Reginald Denny—also captured on video—will raise racial tensions if blacks get together see tensions that the police.

William Raspberry, a well-respected black journalist, wrote a recent column about the Center's report, asking inner-city criminality

He pointed out that the Center's findings have "insidious implications," especially for crime-free black areas. "It leads more to the safe assumption that all young black men are criminals," he wrote, adding that "the accounts of automatic weapons shootouts and turf wars and drive-by killings are not merely stories made up by racists in male African Americans look bad. They happen."

The result is heightened violence of black men. Private detectives routinely follow them in stores as potential shoplifters, and police are undoubtedly by more anxious in terms of following and searching black men than white men. Raspberry writes that they also probably receive harsher treatment in terms of sentencing.

That is why, he goes on, these crime statistics have a way of becoming self-fulfilling. More searches mean more arrests mean more statistics, even though the incidence of drug use and trafficking among whites is proportionately greater. What is also unfortunate, Raspberry adds, is that once a person has a criminal record, he or she is likely to become handicapped to criminality forever. Not only are private ideal schools for sounder—whites have high graduation rates—but employers are reluctant to hire anyone who has had a brush with the law. Being unemployed for just a few months makes it more likely to become crime may become because the individual's only way to make a living.

The U.S. situation in the 1980s was to crack down. During that decade, federal and state governments spent \$47 billion, doubling the number of prison beds to 625,000. "But that hasn't worked," said Clinton when in a recent special issue on social challenges facing the United States. "Ranks of prisoners, in closing these in local jails, rose 138 per cent in the 1980s to 747,000. But violent crime still rose 35 percent."

Equally, the crime war against drugs, which costs \$25 billion a year, rightly or wrongly to the size of New Zealand's export economy. Two-thirds of this money is spent on enforcement in a doomed attempt to choke supply, with the rest spent on education and treatment. The lack of success in attacking the problem is evident: inner cities will be horrendous as an estimated 100,000 addicts are now HIV-positive and may become infected with AIDS. They will eventually require treatment from governments. Worse yet, an estimated 100,000 drug addicts are every year who have a much greater tendency to exhibit physical and developmental impairments.

All of which points out that the White House's biggest problem is not to meet Japan's trade challenge or to keep Saddam Hussein out of the Persian Gulf. It is to keep inner-city blacks within the borders. Without massive intervention—a sort of Marshall Plan To help inner-city residents—it is clear our neighbor will continue to unconsciously wage urban warfare against a growing underclass of disadvantaged and violent people. The cost in human tragedy and dollars, are incalculable.

THE OTTAWA BETTING GAME

Fresh from a post-Christmas vacation in Florida, a long-serving, copacetic Prime Minister returns to Ottawa—and a pile of speculation about his future. As the leader goes into cabinet today, making only a handful of public appearances, his every move and each statement by his office is analysed by Canadians who want to resolve one issue: will he run again at a federal election planned for later in the year? As speculation swirls through January, members of the Prime Minister's Office vigorously deny any retirement rumour—while warning prospective leadership candidates against becoming time-consuming. Then, finally, the Prime Minister reads months of speculation with a letter to his party's president, requesting that the party "take all the necessary steps to arrange a national convention" to name a new leader to replace him.

Apart from the ending, the scenario is familiar. On Feb. 28, 1984, Pierre Trudeau informed Tom Campagna, then-president of the Liberal party, of his intention to step down. So far, though, Brian Mulroney has kept his Conservative guessing about his plans. Like Trudeau, Mulroney—on several hard public appearances—has appeared serene and has cheerfully ignored questions of the storm swirling around him. Like the Liberals in 1984, the Tories appear divided, uncertain and increasingly impatient with their leader. To those emotions, some Conservatives can add another: isolation. Despite public details by the ministers' advised, supporters have already started laying the groundwork for leadership campaigns for International Trade Minister Michael Wilson, Communications Minister Pierre Boudreghien, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, Supporters of Defence Minister Kim Campbell and Environment Minister Jean Charest have also been redefining themselves. At the same time, Immigration Minister Bernard Valiquet is considered a likely Mulroney successor, while justice minister and Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark is also a potential—and powerful—contender.

In fact, many analysts initially argued that if Mulroney decided to resign, he would do so at last week's caucus meeting. But at recent talks, as speculation over the Prime Minister's

WITH HIS TORIES SHOWING SIGNS OF IMPATIENCE, THE PRIME MINISTER REMAINS SILENT ABOUT HIS FUTURE

future grew, so did the issue of the timing of a potential retirement announcement. Some Tories say that Mulroney could wait as long as late April to leave—and that such a late departure would still allow time to have a new leader comfortably in place for a full election. Although leadership campaigns have traditionally taken up to three months, a convention could be held as quickly as 48 days after the Prime Minister states his intention to resign. There also remains a possibility that Mulroney would call a snap election—overcoming any doubt about his leadership—perhaps for some time in April.

As well, Tories say that regardless of Mulroney's imminent departure, he has shrewdly made sure that he will be charged by an early resignation announcement. The crucial element of that move is meeting with President Bill Clinton, perhaps as early as this week. Mulroney's government and many members of the Canadian business community regarded such an early meeting as essential to clear up growing questions about Clinton's enthusiasm for the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade-related issues. As well, Mulroney plans to go to Moscow to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin possibly at the end of March. His swift movements to appear as a hard-duck prime minister to other leaders would be a key factor in the timing of a resignation, some Tories say.

Ever since speculation about Mulroney's future heightened after the Oct. 26 constitutional referendum, the Prime Minister's traditional one-up over his caucus has eroded. Still, as

Mulroney heightens speculation



causal minister, shortly before the Tories began a caucus meeting last weekend to discuss election plans. "With caucus, it is now possible for the first time since Mulroney became leader to use his challenging line." One public sign of that new assertiveness is the expressed intention of 11 Quebec Tory MPs to break party ranks and vote against a government bill that would cut off unemployment benefits for people voluntarily leaving their jobs.

The signs of dissent emerged at a time when those members of the governing party who believe that Mulroney will remain here have been discussing the possibility of calling an election as early as this spring. Still, Justice Minister Pierre Boudreghien, who is one of the party's two election-giving-committee co-leaders, "We are telling our people to be ready to go in the polls anytime after April." And, Boudreghien added in an interview with *Maclean's*: "That campaign will be led by the Prime Minister. That has been made very clear to me." After a meeting with Mulroney and key cabinet ministers at Ottawa last week, Toronto lawyer John Tay, the plaintiff committee's other co-leader, also declared that Mulroney will not resign. "He is staying—period," Tay said. "He is going to lead the party—period."

At the same time, Mulroney is being urged to stay on by a variety of other senior Tories. Fisheries Minister John Crosbie, who had been widely expected to step down before the next election, told *Maclean's* that he will run again if Mulroney stays on as leader. Still, Crosbie: "It seems a mystery, I am going to support him and run. If not, I will look at it all again." Crosbie's fellow Newfoundland MP, Ross Kent, echoed the feelings of many Mulroney supporters when he said that speculation over the Prime Minister's future is a media creation. Added Kent: "I have seen the media drive themselves into a frenzy before—and I see it."

Kent's assertion is at least partly true: the Ottawa press has been full of speculation since a surprise earlier than Mulroney's political future for the past three months. Still, many of his friends and most ardent supporters privately say that they expect him to resign. Traditionally, many of Mulroney's deepest friendships have been built on his expectation that friends will reflect or defend his point of view publicly—and privately—at all times. But now, even friends acknowledge that they are skeptical of the Prime Minister's public assertions that he will stay on. And they note that Mulroney, who often likes to build the most optimistic case possible before making decisions, is at present uncharacteristically reticent on the subject of his own future. Just one friend of Mulroney's for more than 25 years: "I think he will leave—and I don't think he will tell anyone and he has decided to do so."

In fact, even though they remain loyal to Mulroney, many Tory MPs have begun to discuss possible battle plans with their constituents should Mulroney step down. At one Quebec riding association meeting before Christmas, the riding MP asked his constituents whether it would be better to support Campbell or Boudreghien in a leadership race. The

National Notes

A LIBERAL AGENDA

Liberal Leader Jean Chrétien said that he would cancel the \$4.4-billion federal contract for 50 new antineutronic helicopters if his party won the next federal election. Chrétien, who later said that the country might be better served by supporting the military spending helicopter force, added that the money should be spent on education and research and development.

TRAPPED UP

An Ontario court judge found Quebec Conservative MP Michel Tremblay \$13,000. Tremblay was found guilty of three funds-related charges last December arising from his use of office funds to send three riding association members and their spouses to Acapulco in 1986. He said that he will appeal.

A CALL TO SERVICE

Catherine Callbeck, the new leader of Prince Edward Island's Liberal party, was named as one of the country's early women premier. Callbeck, 53, who was the province's Liberal leadership on Jan. 23, is expected to call a provincial election sometime this year.

SETTING A PRECEDENT

A South African woman who claimed that she faced persecution at home because she was Jewish received permission to stay in Canada from Immigration Minister Bernard Valiquet. The woman, who claimed that she was three times shot and put at risk when she refused to wear a veil, had previously been ordered deported. While no formal persecution will still not be viewed as official grounds for determining refugee claims, immigration officials will be advised to use a more humanitarian approach in the future.

A PLAN FOR HELP

About 10,000 Saskatchewan farmers gathered at Saskatoon to demand more government aid for Canadian wheat agricultural sector. Addressing the crowd, Premier Ray Buchanan said that the province is broke, while federal Agriculture Minister Charles Meyer said that there are no easy solutions to the crisis in agriculture.

TAKING STOCK

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa recently cautioned Parti Québécois Leader Jacques Paré about a recent visit that a majority vote for Quebec sovereignty can be achieved by "old stock" Quebecers alone. Bourassa charged that Paré's comments only widen the divide between Quebec francophones and the province's anglophone minorities.

THE ANT HILL KDS

ROCH THERIAULT SAW HIMSELF AS GOD'S EMISSARY. BUT TO HIS VICTIMS, HE WAS A BEAST FROM HELL.

of psychiater recently described him as "a Renaissance man" with "a bright, impulsive and sensitive character - another sort that he possesses in abundance."

It is intelligence that is much higher than average," he said on Sept. 28, 1943, from Kala, the psychiatric hospital where he had been kept since he was captured. He lived with eight "Soviet" and two Danish disciples on an isolated compound 200 km northeast of Tverdok, Thailand. All, he said, spent the morning drinking and joking fights with his nonaligned followers. "Occasionally, it seemed as if one of the disciples was about to be executed, but when day came up his disciples received "modest treatment."

Within minutes, 32-year-old biologist, Boletsov, who completed a research program, lay naked on a wooden table in one of the compounds, his calves, Vainakh and other naked men, he said, were "in the room."

Boletsov, a "King of the locusts" - Vainakh painted Boletsov in the stomach, painted a plaster tube up her rectum and performed a crude caecum with molasses and olive oil. Then, as the day faded, the naked open her abdomen with a freshly sharpened knife. "The operation" was completed, Boletsov said, as he heard the "operation" completed. This naked opened another follower, Galenko Luchinsk, to stretch up the organ, wound with a needle and thread. A dry tree, Boletsov said, is almost unmanageable agency - a human version of what Boletsov said, he said, was a "human version of a human and violent class in the history of human crime."

In mid-January, a *meat* Kingston, Ont., courtroom, some of the gruesome details of the cult's shadowy life finally came to light when Theriault, now 45, pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree murder in connection with Baskin's death.

Therisaalt
leaving
about a
well-styled
mophead with
a hint of
conspicuous

Since his conviction in October, 1989, he has been at Leavenworth's right arm with a dull metal cleaver—so not he committed one month after she helped him dispose of Bolander's body—Therrell has been engaged in Karpis's maximum security Mail House Institution. Only after his arrest on four assault charges involving Leaville did another club member step forward and tell police about Bolander's death—which had remained secret for more than a year. Now serving a life sentence for Bolander's murder, with no possibility of parole until the

year 2006, Thornick was placed in protective custody last week because of death threats by other inmates. During his court appearance on Jan. 18, he expressed remorse for "transferring, murdering and inflicting suffering on the

'The com
on. It's a
of the pe
man—the

Spending in his native French, he adds that his current and new recreation had helped him "to grow as a person" and to realize the error of his ways (page 34).

how deal with Thérault's case seems convinced that he influences psychological control over some of his followers. One of those manipulations is Robert Penay, executive director of the Kew-Forest-Harbor Children's Aid Society, which found 22 of Thérault's children and eventually found adoptive homes for 20 of them. In an interview last week, Penay noted that three

at Thorsrud's former cat disciples—*Erinaceo Lefebvre*, 36, Chantal Lefebvre, 34, and Nicole Ruel, 35—now operate a bakery together and live in adjacent rented cottages less than a kilometre from McIlhenny's gates. Lefebvre, a slim woman with bright brown eyes and a girlish smile, gave birth to a son 18 months ago, the result of one of the couple's visits last November on weeks with Delcourt as a trailer on the arctic coast.

"The command goes on," said Perry bluntly. "It's an indication of the power of the state—these women are there for him. Who knows whether he has reformed? I wouldn't bet my last dollar on it."

spoke to Thérault and gave his consent to be interviewed. But late in the week, the deputy federal Correctional Services commissioner for Ontario, Andrew Graham, banned Thérault from speaking to reporters. A spokesman for the department, Jacques Bélanger, described Graham's order as "unusual," but he said that prison officials did not want Thérault to be distracted from the voluntary psychiatric treatment he is receiving. Added Bélanger: "There's also a lot of concern about the psychological power he has over some of his people."

Former members of his sect could still be influenced by thought he says."

nine lives
indication
over of the
se women

1987. "The Chastelais. And gave me two choices: stay with Rich and love your child, or leave Rich and keep him," Lefkowitz recalled in an interview. "I decided I wasn't going to leave him."

Mauchter: Five years after she made that decision, Lullianne remains "madly in love" with Thelma and is an incessantly weeping his release. She says that the cult leader's periods of "ecstasy" were the products of excessive drinking and an insatiable desire for the love of his disciples.

In fact, people who grew up with Thelma said they knew the family well across the

had a difficult childhood. Born in a tiny village near Chocoma in 1947 to Hypolito Thérault, a housepainter, and house-maker Penelope Treviño, Thérault grew up in Thérault-Mines, an asbestos-mining town 230 km northeast of Montreal. His father, neighbors recall, was a staunch sup-

MAGNET 3/1982 JANUARY 8 1993 79

A Bloody History

MAY 16, 1947:
Roch Thériault born in
Rivière-de-Moulin, Que.,
to Hippolyte Thériault, a
housepainter, and home-
maker Domitille Tremblay.

1960: The family moves to Thetford-Mines, Que. Neighbors now say that the atmosphere in the home was "abusive."

NOVEMBER, 1943: Thirtault marries Francine Green. They have two children. He supports the family by selling wood carvings. Gradually, friends say, his behavior becomes erratic.

1610-1670: Thibault joins the Seventh-day Adventist Church and begins wearing monk's robes. He and Greiser divorce in 1975.

1977 After an unsuccessful bid to lead the local Seventh-day Adventist congregation, Thierstoff quits the church and moves to Ste-Blaise-de-Bauxois, Que. He opens a homeopathic clinic and runs a shop-smoking seminars.

1978: Thakault tells them that he has had a vision that the world will soon end. Together with four other men, nine women and four children, he establishes a commune in a remote area of the Gaspé Peninsula. He proclaims himself God's representative and gives each of his followers a biblical name.

MARCH, 1962: Guy Weir, who joined the commune after wandering off from a Quebec City mental institution, harshly beats a two-year-old boy for crying. The next day,

Thérault "operative" on the injured boy, who subsequently dies.

SEPTEMBER, 1981:

As punishment for beating the two-year-old, Thérault cuts off Veer's testicles.

SEPTEMBER, 1983:

Thérault pleads guilty to criminal negligence for crashing Veer. He and seven other commune members are also convicted of criminal negligence in the boy's death.

JUNE, 1984:

Thérault is released from jail. Later, he pays \$12,000 for a 200-acre parcel of land near Burnt River, Ont., and moves there with the rest of the commune.

OCTOBER, 1984:

The Quebec government issues a nationwide alert to child-welfare authorities. Local social workers, already concerned about the commune, begin monitoring its activities more closely.

JANUARY, 1985:

Another child dies at the commune. Local coroner attributes the death to sudden infant death syndrome.

DEC. 6, 1985:

Ten social workers and ten police officers raid the commune, seizing 14 children aged five months to 16 years. Some of the children tell foster parents that Thérault forced them to masturbate him and take part in other sexual acts.

1986-1988:

Thérault's female disciples give birth to nine more of his children. All are taken into care within days of their birth.

SEPTEMBER, 1990:

Thérault, performing a caesal "operation," re-



CLARENCE/STY

porter also brought Catholic-bishop group leaders to the "white house," which opposes liberal trends in the Church. St. Roger Beaudin, 66, who first met the family in 1968: "Every Sunday, we'd see old man Thérault put on his white beard and troop the family off to their morning. People around here didn't like that too much."

Contrast: Thérault's parents still live in the house where he was raised—a white cement-block bungalow, which now a dilapidated and hidden from the road by overgrown shrubbery. But they have had no contact with their son for years—and display no interest in re-establishing ties. "I don't want to talk about him or hear his name," Hyacinthe Thérault shouted at a *Montreal* reporter who visited the house last week. "I raised seven children and only one of them turned out like that," he added before slamming shut the porch door, sending two scraggly cats running for cover behind a doorway.

Lion Veillon, 44, a former next-door neighbor of the Théraults who remained friends with Roch until the mid-1970s, recalls that the family had little money and that the atmosphere in the household was "abusive." When Roch was a teenager, Veillon said, he and his three brothers would play a game they called "boon" with their father. "They would sit at the kitchen table with their heavy boots on and kick each other's shins until one of them gave in," said Veillon, who recalls witnessing the contest on several occasions. "The mother was no better. You would hear her screaming at the kids from three-quarters of a mile down the road, like no other person could scream."

Perhaps because he wanted to escape the memories of those years, Thérault has since provided several inaccurate accounts of his childhood. In a 1983 autobio-

Great times in Asperger days, with laughter on roads during spring the '60s'—commented he was who would have the most accurate

the entire afternoon."

Thérault also told Malcolm that when he was eight he discovered that he had the power to heal sick people—beginning with a friend who had broken his teeth. "Following this experience," the psychiatrist recorded Thérault as saying, "he intentionally studied the masses, the herbs and the plants, and he related his skills as a healer. He soon was able to control cattle and pigs without the loss of any blood."

Salsa: In Thérault Meets, however, Thérault is remembered as a popular teenage who spent many evenings drinking with his large group of friends in local clubs. Several of his former claims use the word "brilliant" to describe him, adding that he had "the gift of the gab." Said André Gauthier: "He was a good-looking man with piercing blue eyes. He never had any problems getting girls, that's for sure."

In November, 1987, Thérault married one of those girls—Françoise Gosselin, one of Lion Veillon's cousins by marriage. A talented wood-carver and carpenter, Thérault built a quaint 500-sq-ft house down the road from his parents, and followed two boys with his

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John, commune member Solange Boland's 14-year-old daughter. She died a day later. Over the following four weeks, her body is claimed twice, then cremated.

JULY 24, 1989:

In another "operation," Thirsk plunges a knife through disciple Genevieve Lavallee's right hand and cuts off her arm with a chainsaw.

AUG. 9, 1989:

Thirsk and the others lie Lavallee up, using a hot-hot metal rod, the cult leader cauterizes the stump of her severed arm. Shortly afterward, most commune members flee.

AUG. 16, 1989:

Lavallee tells police how she lost her arm.

OCT. 4, 1989:

Police capture Thirsk after a six-week search with dogs and aircraft.

OCT. 10, 1989:

Thirsk pleads guilty to three counts of aggravated assault and one count of unlawfully causing bodily harm to Lavallee. He is given a suspended 10-year prison term. Meanwhile, a commune member tells police about Boland's death. They later discover her severed remains on commune property.

DEC. 10, 1990:

Mr. Justice Claude Paré confirms Thirsk's trial for second-degree murder in connection with Boland's death.

JAN. 10, 1991:

Thirsk pleads guilty. Mr. Justice R.C. Deschamps sentences him to life in prison, with no chance of parole until the year 2000.



The suffering began after the first year of communal life, when Thirsk began dealing beer and liquor heavily. While church, he few with violent rants, shouting "whites, and children, stay!" said Gagnon. "He and the children were dissatisfied and the devil had to be beaten out of them. The painful beating on beds because he said we were too spiritually weak to do it ourselves."

Next, indeed, the commune members were to work hard physically and mentally. Working long hours to survive in the wilderness, they suffered from exhaustion and malnutrition and became almost totally dependent on Thirsk's erratic leadership. And although Thirsk repudiated their devotion with surgery, his disciples rarely fought back. Ronald Gagnon, "the one Thirsk abused the most day, he'd stay with his hand in his foot, begging God to stop commanding him to commit such brutality." But while he promised that the beatings would stop, they only grew worse. "I think I understood what a battered child experiences," Gagnon said. "She keeps getting beaten, but she doesn't beg for forgiveness. She wants to be loved and can't bear to leave her home."

The sad acknowledgment of Thirsk's commune came to a head one night in March, 1981. While parting, the members left their children in the care of Guy Veer, a mentally deficient 33-year-old who had disappeared weeks earlier from Quebec City hospital.

They returned to find Gagnon's two-year-old son, Samuel, had been badly beaten. The child was not posing a threat, so Thirsk "operated" on his genitals. The next day, the father died. Thirsk himself later said the death and, months later, took him for murder before a kangaroo court, which found the accused not guilty by reason of insanity. Still, Thirsk denied that Veer needed to be taught a lesson—and mentioned both of his testicles. The commune leader also attracted big headlines and followers of alternative medicine. He married one of them, 58-year-old Gailie Lavallee. Among his other admirers were Maryse and Jacques Gagnon, a married couple, both 25, who lived one street away with their newborn daughter. Within a year of meeting Thirsk, Jacques Gagnon smothered his wife, but got out on bail as a construction worker and Maryse resigned her actual position at the local Vachon shoe factory. Devoted by his children, they moved out of all their marital possessions to Thirsk and moved into his house.

For AMI (AMI commune) centered at a bush camp, they lived on molasses and sold handicrafts and baked goods.

a homestead clinic and began growing out Ayurvedic healing practices to help people with insomnia.

About midnight, Thirsk became the focal point of an expanding circle of angry-love enthusiasm and followers of alternative medicine. He married one of them, 58-year-old Gailie Lavallee. Among his other admirers were Maryse and Jacques Gagnon, a married couple, both 25, who lived one street away with their newborn daughter. Within a year of meeting Thirsk, Jacques Gagnon smothered his wife, but got out on bail as a construction worker and Maryse resigned her actual position at the local Vachon shoe factory. Devoted by his children, they moved out of all their marital possessions to Thirsk and moved into his house.

Rage: And then one day in 1978, the group disappeared. Thirsk had announced to his 17 followers—four men, nine women and four children—that the world was going to end soon "in a shower of atomic-like hailstones." The only way to survive Armageddon, he said, was to escape the clock of society and return back to nature. He led his flock to a remote valley on the Gaspé Peninsula, ordered them to cut off all ties with the outside world and assigned biblical verses to every group member, taking Moses for harpist. Proclaiming himself God's emissary, he told his disciples that the road to heaven would be filled with suffering—but that it was God's will.

the most female commune members his exclusive "wives," keeping them in an almost constant state of pregnancy. In Quebec, Thirsk had made the commune the focus of the attention of the media, but the 10th anniversary of the commune's founding, he told member Claude Gagnon that the soon became one of Thirsk's confidants, and bore three of the leader's children between 1983 and 1986. Gagnon remained in the group as a celibate disciple. "God was always telling us that it had to be that way because he was like Abraham in the Bible," recalled a letter Thirsk, who gave just to one of Thirsk's offspring. "He had to have many wives and children to keep his love going."

Apparently, Thirsk drew some of his inspiration from Alex Joseph, a polygamist and commune leader in Big Water, Utah, once the Arizona leader. Near 55, and a frequent subject of articles in supermarket tabloids, Joseph lives with at least nine wives and their 30 children, and runs the teachings of the Mormon Church and the Old Testament and judgments for his unconquered kingdom. According to police, Thirsk said he had taken three visits to Joseph's colony in the 1980s, during one of them, the American gave the Ami Bible and purchased a gold-colored crown and named him "King of the believers" in an elaborate ceremony.

Sad Ontario Provincial Police Det. Rick Bowser, who investigated Thirsk's cult for three years. "It was an extremely important moment for Rick. After that, he began wearing the crown with his robes and a strong very inspired."

Meanwhile, commune life in Ontario grew stranger by the week. Lavallee says that Thirsk would take two or more of his wives to bed at once and hold contracts to see which one would have the most orgasms. In the same competitive spirit, Gagnon says that Thirsk frequently held outstretched gladiator games for his amusement. He would draw a large square to the dirt and order two naked disciples, men or women, to strip inside. At his command, they would fight for three-minute intervals. The winner would win with a stopwatch. Said Gagnon: "Rick counted the points—one for a punch, none one for stripping outside of the ring. The winners had to fight someone else, and the games could go on for hours."

Persecution: Gradually, however, the isolated commune's activities began to draw attention—and frequent inspections—from staff at the Keweenaw Children's Aid Society. Staff and volunteer director Peter "We became increasingly concerned about Rick's mental state. He personally seemed to be deteriorating." On Dec. 8, 1985, GAGNON and police visited the camp and seized 14 children there. Over the next two years, as Thirsk's "wives" grew both in size and in spring, authorities moved their investigation. According to a 1987 Sunday report, that made 21 of the children sons of the Crown, Thirsk allegedly forced several of the youngsters to perform sex acts on him. Court records quote a 19-year-old girl saying that Thirsk "had sex with her in his bedroom." The court case out of a. Everybody is doing it, including Mom, Mom and we take turns. The records also indicate that Thirsk instructed one boy to masturbate.



Lavallee: the commune leader left out right of her hand and cut off her right arm in a painful "operation."

with a male aide. And when one of Thérault's sons requested sexual favors from a teenage girl, the leader berated the boy in "a moment of lucidity" to help him.

With the children gone, commune life spiraled downward into a frenetic outg of sexual perversion and violence. According to a statement of facts reported to him by Thérault, and read into court records at the cult leader's Jan. 18 sentencing, the self-styled prophet persuaded Québécois for an unspecified minor transgression by placing a rubber band around his neck. "A few hours later," the statement said, "he noticed his screams had evolved to the use of an orange and had turned various colors." Then, when Québécois complained that one of his inmates had become infertile, a drunken Thérault "made an attempt to sodomize" the victim, resulting in a "serious" infection and "causing doctors, by aggressive acts, proving to her abdominal cavity." Thérault ordered his daughter to bury and dig up her body many times.

Court documents say that a rib was removed from the body and that Thérault wore it as a leather case around his neck. And according to police and Lavelle, the cult leader ordered his followers to remove Bellet's bones and use of the cap her skull so that he could ejaculate into her uterus—an act he claimed could restore her life.

A month after commune members cremated Bellet's remains, Thérault unleashed his destructive energies on Lavalite, ripping out eight of her teeth to treat a "cancer." The wounds "he would come." The following July, in order to "cure" stiffness in one of her fingers, he impaled her right hand to a wooden table with a heating knife. "I sat there for an hour," Lavelle recalled in an interview last week. "I didn't want to lose consciousness, because I didn't know he would kill me. He was drunk of course. My arms turned blue and dark. He decided to amputate it."

In a crude opinion with no scientific basis, Thérault backed off Lavalite's right arm between the shoulder and elbow. "He decided to use a chainsaw," said Lavelle, "but on the first try, he didn't do the job because the blade was so dull it didn't chip." The second time, the job was done. After Lavalite spent the night weeping at pain on the lichen floor, a fellow disciple attacked up her stump. Days later, Thérault continued the wound with a piece of drive shaft from a truck, leaving

'AN ODIUS CHARACTER'

Before landing here a life sentence on Jan. 18, Mr. Justice R.C. Denham of the Ontario Court general division asked Jack Thérault if he had anything to say. Excerpt from Thérault's statement, delivered in French.

Distinguished laymen, members of the court, Your Honor: These past three years of incarceration have undergone to do a complex education on the norms of usual behavior as my owner said. It is with the glad faith of my inner vibrations that I come before you.

I recognize that the justice system fulfilled its duty by placing [me] behind bars. Over several years, I made of myself an odious character, an insupportable manner compelled undoubtedly by my own will, by the odious and debauchery of my way of thinking into which I had surreptitiously mixed love, hate, rejection, labor, alcohol and violence in my body's helpless state. I contacted my soul with the folles of grandeur.

Three afflictions on my part: several wounds whose visible scars I will carry for the rest of my life. Some of these scars will remain particularly vivid, such as the ones created when I carried out the folly of my fury transmitting, maintaining and inflicting suffering on the members of my entourage, and most particularly the events that led to the premature death of Suzanne Bellet. I made a criminal of myself.

Allow me to plead for clemency for those who may have put themselves at risk before the law—and society—by going to live in the clutches of that hell. I was the leader of that commune and I take full responsibility for all the misdeeds committed during its existence. With dignity and a new integrity, I will serve whatever sentence the court deems suitable.



Thérault with scars and robes. Day.

regular payments from the province's Criminal Injuries Compensation Board—and plans to publish a French-language book on her experiences and fill reflecting back on her years with Thérault, she says. "He is a killer, a psychopath. He cannot be cured." Another of Thérault's former "wives," who asked not to be named, is seeking legal access to her children, including her youngest son, Mathieu.

But there is little hope of success because of Ontario's strict adoption laws.

Gagnier, for his part, has returned to his roots in Québec's Franco region—where he is reuniting with relatives—after serving 18 months in Multis for violating Thérault's Lavalite's companion. His fate in prison helped him to regain his psychological distance from Thérault—and at one point he even considered killing his former master. "I started thinking for myself," Gagnier said. "I did not depend on him for food, clothing or sleep any more." And that is not all that has changed. Gagnier, who for more than a decade worshipped Thérault as "Jesus," no longer believes in God.

PAUL KALIBA and BOSS LAKER with
ASH MALKASALIN in Le Monde and Bruce and
BARRY CANE in Montreal

with no scripture torch.

Terraced, Lavelle fled the camp and hid behind a house north of Toronto, where she told police how she lost her son. On Oct. 6, 1989, after a six-week search with helicopters and tracking dogs, police arrested Thérault, who had escaped to a makeshift camp where he planned to spend the winter with two followers. Four days later, he pleaded guilty to a series of charges related to his attacks on Lavalite and reconfirmed 13-year sentences. Later reduced to 18 years on appeal. Only when Thérault was battered by a mob of police did a mob detector tell police of Bellet's 1988 murder; he was charged with that offense on Dec. 24, 1989. A police officer on evidence in that case remained in sight and last month when Thérault pleaded guilty.

Psychopaths? In a recent prison report, Millions Associates described Thérault as "non-operative," adding that he seems "amenable to the rehabilitation process." Indeed, the report even states that Thérault has been offered a transfer to a lower security prison—but that he turned it down because he wanted to remain close to Francine Laflamme.

Meanwhile, most of the cult leader's other victims are trying to piece together their shattered lives. Lavelle, who now has a steady-state artificial arm, receives medical attention from the cult leader's other victims are trying to piece together their shattered lives.

Gagnier, who now has a steady-state artificial arm, receives medical attention from the cult leader's other victims are trying to piece together their shattered lives.

OUTSIDE

THERE'S A

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NIGHTMARE TALES

WHY PEOPLE JOIN VIOLENT CULTS

After 10 years of psychiatric therapy, Linda can finally talk freely about her chilling childhood cult experiences, including repeated rapes, her pregnancy and her subsequent ritual killing of her baby boy. The 36-year-old Toronto legal secretary, who has asked that her last name be kept confidential, says that her captivism began when she was just eight years old and living in northeastern Ontario. One night, her Grade 3 teacher, a member of a satanic cult, took her to one of the group's secret ceremonies—the beginning of five years of sexual abuse by cult members. Her horror ended in 1979 when her mother, who had been aware of the abuse, finally acted and secretly relocated Linda, then 16, to Toronto. In 1983, she began undergoing a decade of therapy to help her deal with her horrible memories. But like many people who have been involved in violent cults, Linda, introduced to Manson by a leading psychiatrist who has treated her, is not yet completely free. The physical scars, unlike deep crosses burnt into her thighs, will always be with her. And, because she is now willing to talk openly about her experiences, she says that members

of the cult attempt to intimidate her by stalking her on the streets. She added: "Cults can take hold of a person by taking control of their mind. It is like being brainwashed."

Each year, thousands of Canadians join some of the 3,000 cults that experts say exist across North America. While many of the groups are physically nonviolent and other experts say that dozens of shadowy, violent groups also exist. Often, as the case of Rick Thompson illustrates, the cults are structured around a single charismatic leader who claims to be a prophet or a son of God. Cult members become so indoctrinated in their leader that they may tolerate murder. And psychiatrists say that people of all backgrounds can be duped into joining violent cults. Saul Sato Ross, a former professor of psychiatry at the University of Manitoba, "Regular white middle-class people helped the Manson murder and Jeffrey Jones," Ross, who now works at the Charter Hospital in Delta, Tex., a national director of the discipline of psychiatry, said. "There's not a death cult."

Intensifies: More recently, violent cults are symbolized by two infamous groups: Charles Manson's Family, and the People's Temple, headed by self-styled evangelist Jim Jones. On the night of Aug. 9, 1990, Manson, a doofus who had spent most of his life in prison, sent four members of his Family to murder doctor Roman Polanski's posthumous son in the Los Angeles suburb of Bel-Air, where they tortured and killed five people. Actress Sharon Tate, 26, Polanski's wife, who was eight months pregnant at the time, was stabbed 16 times and then beheaded. The next night, Manson's followers strangled Los Angeles grocery owner Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary. On both nights, the words "pig" and "better shaker"—from a Beatles' song at the same name—were written in the victim's blood on the walls of their homes.

The deaths of more



than 900 members of the People's Temple by mass suicide were noted by their feature magazine, *Time*, in its 1978 issue. The People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, was founded by Jim Jones in 1977. He relocated his church in Redwood Valley, Calif., in 1967, then moved the group to 1877 to create a utopian community in the South American nation of Guyana. But on Nov. 18, 1978, Congressman Leo Ryan flew to Guyana to investigate allegations of physical and sexual abuse within the cult. Three days later, Ryan and four other people accompanying him were shot dead. The next day, when Guyanese soldiers went to investigate, they found hundreds of bodies. The Temple members, including Jones, had died from drinking Kool-Aid laced with cyanide.

Manson and Jones represent extreme cases, but psychiatrists say that many of the techniques they used to first attract and hold their followers are regularly used in other violent

cults such as Thelma's. Cpl. Reed Leary, an Edmonton-based RCMP anti-gang officer specializing in cults, says that in nearly every case, there are half-converted charismatic individuals who establish and maintain them for personal gain. Leary also notes that physical abuse is often used to force obedience. Reed Leary: "We have contacts within some cults who say we're in cults now."

To lure people into their dark world, both violent and nonviolent cults often prey on people who are emotionally confused or dis-

traction of cults, says that cults represent an escape from the pressures of society by offering their members acceptance, self-esteem and theological demands that they can meet. In return, Leary adds, cult members actually surrender their rational thought processes to do whatever the group leader asks of them—even if it involves murder or suicide. He added: "As the leader's actions become more heinous, so do those of the cult's members."

In some cases, an association grows out of a simple fascination with something different or

counseling, many others never fully come to terms with their past experiences. Saul Jones: "It takes an intense amount of work to break the magical hold cults have on a person."

Terror: Mader, 43, of Grosse Pointe, Ala., says that she considers herself extremely fortunate to have escaped a Toronto cult known as the Students of Light. In 1977, Mader, then 27, had just returned from a trip to Europe when she met a recruiter for the Students of Light, an Edmonton health food store. Like many small cults, the Students of Light claimed to be working for the betterment of mankind—and six months later the idealistic young woman went to Toronto to meet the cult's head.

On the result, Mader says, was three years of mental enslavement. "We were required to live together," she recalls, "and give up all of our worldly possessions and work in the group's vegetable garden."

Scared: Within a year, she says, she was completely under the group's control. But the cult's greed set in motion a series of events that led her to flee. When the Students of Light learned that she had \$15,000 in bonds in Alberta, they sent her home in the fall of 1980 to collect it. When Mader arrived, the recall, her family members were so spooked by her uncle-like state that they refused to let her go back to Toronto. Instead, they moved her from one town to another to confuse other cult members, who were making threatening phone calls and attempting to secure her return.

To free Mader, her family brought in a deprogrammer, a person who specializes in ending the effects of brainwashing, from California. Mader finally broke down when one deprogrammer asked her what good the Students of Light had actually done in the world. Mader could not find an adequate answer—and that finally shattered the cult's hold on her. "It was a very emotional experience," she says. "I felt free."

For others, like Linda, escaping a cult's hold can be agonizingly slow and painful. She says that cult members raped her during satanic ceremonies and that she became pregnant at 12. Following the birth of her baby, she says, she was forced to feed it as a human infant. Many of her memories, she says, were suppressed and only emerged after psychiatric counseling. Now, Linda's decision to openly talk about her past has stirred the cult's wrath. "I've seen them following me," she adds. "They want me to stop talking." While Linda may never forget her ordeal, she says she was fortunate enough to escape. Many others have not been so lucky.

TOM FENWELL

Forerunners: *Masses of people claim they are victims of shadowy, violent cults that spread across North America.*

unknown. Once drawn into a cult, members find it almost impossible to escape. Indeed, Ross, who is writing a book on satanic cults, says that even strong individuals, when they fall under the control of a cult, find it difficult to understand or let alone working to escape. Ross adds, "Cults use deception, drugs, isolation, brain deprivation and constant rhythmic noise patterns such as chanting. Ross says, a cult can replace an individual's own beliefs with those of the group."

As a result, breaking free of the grip of a cult leaves former members emotionally scarred. Jones notes that after they leave to admit that they made a terrible mistake—and often undergo great anger and confusion. While some are able to deal with the trauma through





Hockey losers of seasons past

BY TRENT FRAZEE

Younger poets viewing another long winter in the National Hockey League have noted that the Ottawa Senators may be the worst team ever to set their sights on the Stanley Cup. But surely this is taking in too much territory over too long a period. I mean, last at this time is nearly a century and the distance covers some 4,000 miles so, as the case may be, 6,400 km.

Of course, the current Senators could stand a certain improvement. As the great phrases begin their weekly mumble, the team is still seeking to launch a one-game win streak on the road following 28 consecutive losses. This is reverse progress, all right, but by no means unwise. As recently as the spring of 1973, the newly minted Washington Capitals lost 37 straight on home ice in D.C.

But time quickly erases memory of past incompetence, as followers of these very Washington Capitals have upon occasion clearly illustrated. Just a couple of weeks ago, the Senators visited the Caps on their home pad at Landover, Md. The scoreboard displayed far word OTTAWA before the game ended, suspended from the gallery, was a *My bright beacon proclaiming, "In praise the Senators." The Ottawa Citizens' Day Magazine*, who were there, as it is at every Senators' game, reported on a strange story at the Washington Post. It concerned an unnamed Senators official requesting that the Capitals send somebody from that 1976-1977 Washington team to talk to the Senators players about what it is like to play for the world's worst hockey team.

"The idea for the talk, apparently, was to motivate the Senators to try harder by letting them hear a firsthand testimonial of how such a record can haunt a man for the rest of his days," *MacGyver* wrote. The Capitals declined this rare wisdom opportunity to improve the mental health of their pursuers.

Ottawa players, understandably, are not

The Ottawa Senators could stand a certain improvement, but it is not the worst team ever to set its sights on the Stanley Cup

amused by their plight. "You don't want to live the direction of having the worst road record in hockey," said Laurie Boschman, a 23-year-old centre now in his 14th NHL season. "We've got pride. We want to do our best. We want to keep playing and keep going. Hopefully some wins will come."

Terrifying as Washington's string of 37 straight losses appears, there is no guarantee the Caps were hockey's worst Stanley Cup dreamers. Consider the odyssey of seven-career young souths from the Yukon who, weary of the long Klondike winter, decided in 1894 to challenge the famed Ottawa Silver Seven for the Stanley Cup. This was a pre-NHL era when teams could challenge for the trophy during by Lord Stanley of Preston in 1895.

The ambitious Dawson City players relied on their eagerness by sponsoring dances and selling raffle tickets. On Dec. 13, 1894, they set off by dog team for Skagway on the first leg of that 4,000-km journey. At Skagway they boarded a passenger boat for the long (and cold) Pacific coast to Vancouver. There, they climbed into a dog coach for the treacherous ride through the Rockies, across the Boone Frontier, along the snowbound rock of Lake Superior's

north shore and finally into Ottawa on Jan. 13, a 23-day adventure.

There are seven today who claim hockey is a brutal sport. Perhaps they'd be surprised in an editorial from the old *Toronto Globe* concerning the champion Silver Seven. "Ottawa players slash, trip and practice the ancient law of crosscutting with a systematic hammering of heads and wrists. They beat a man on the head when the referee isn't looking (as he does in these days) and they barely check a man into the boards since he has passed the puck. The referee is not the referee; the man must be stopped at all costs. If he is not out altogether, so much the better."

Two nights after their arrival in Ottawa, the Yukon riders were beaten 9-2. In the second game, it was 23-2, when the Silver Seven's Frank McGeer achieved scoring totals unmatched to this day—14 goals, eight in a stretch of eight minutes, 20 seconds. Were the Dawson City lads the worst Stanley Cup challengers? Perhaps.

Still, the New York Rangers of 1943-1964 weren't a whole lot better. They won only two road games all winter and only four at home. This Ranger team was a wartime casualty, most of whose stars had enlisted in the armed forces. Frank Boecher was the 43-year-old coach, a great former Ranger center who even donated his own hockey equipment, like a four-year investment, to help his hapless team.

Boecher came from a large Ottawa family, six boys and two girls. Four of the brothers—Frank, George, Billy and Bobby—played in the NHL, a circumstance that prompted their 30-year-old grandfather, Antonio, to learn to play hockey. He wrote in a mail-order store for a pair of skates, a stick and a puck. Then he made his first foray on a frozen pond behind the house where his daughter Shelia and son Jack looked after him.

Daughter Shelia, looking from the kitchen window, cried out, "Jack, come quick! There's ice on the creek and the water's up to his knees!"

Jack was out there, too. "Good God, women," he yelled. "The ice will cut, can't they?"

"No!" cried Shelia. "He's in the kitchen!" Noting this and similar barely true to life hockey antics over a glass in a New York hotel, helped Boecher survive the long, painful Ranger season. His terrible team scored 300 goals in the 50-game season, a practically unheard-of (and now unachieved) average of 6.2 goals a game. At one point Boecher was concerned that his team's losses, the feared patriarch Lester Patrick, would conclude that the coach was part of the problem.

Then one January night in 1944, Boecher got a call from Ottawa that his brother, Gerroll, had died. He told Patrick he wanted to go home for a few days. Patrick said all of course, but he, Patrick, would handle the team for a game in Detroit. It is a game that still has a place in the NHL record book: the Red Wings scored 15 unanswered goals.

Obviously, there was nothing wrong with the coach. The Rangers were simply a terrible team. Why, the current Ottawa Senators could easily have beaten them. Or at least come away with a tie.

PEOPLE

VIVA CECILIA!

At 26, Italian mezzo soprano Cecilia Bartoli has already set the opera world on its ear, and that has led to a hectic performance schedule. This week, she continues a whirlwind concert tour of Vancouver, Toronto and Quebec City, performing a selection of works by Rossini. "I love Canadian audiences," said Bartoli, who is fluent in French and Italian, lives but apartment in Monte Carlo. "But there are so many people in Canada who speak French. There are times when I want to speak English." In April, she will have a chance to improve her English in Houston, where she will make her first North American operatic appearance as *Radica* in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. "Why not?" Bartoli asked. "Maybe I'll be an Italian singer speaking English with a Texan accent."



Bartoli: a chance to improve her English



John and Nancy Meyer discuss

Truth or smear

Call it a Major upset. Last week's *Washington Post* Minister John Major, 40, launched a bid against the infamously woolly *New Statesman* and *Sunday* and the cheeky satirical monthly *Leader*, which had recruited rumors that Major had an affair with columnist Clare Tomlinson 41. The two newspapers denied the allegation, and Tomlinson also said the magazine, *New Statesman* editor Steve Punt said that the article was intended to expose a "smear" campaign against the Prime Minister. For his part, *Sunday* editor Stuart Rogers was more cavalier, saying that he was confident of winning the upcoming legal battle—and promising that there was "room to come."

COWGIRL'S BLUES

It seemed a modest proposal, Alberta NDP MLA William Robertson proposed last week that the *Insider* compensate singer K. D. Lang, a native of Coquitlam, B.C., for winning an American Music Award in January over adult contemporary artist. The Conservative government rejected the motion. Agriculture Minister Ernie Eby said that he



was opposed to because the singer is anti-apartheid—in other words, Lang has appeared on TV to say that "most standards" and because she is a lesbian. In response, Lang said "I'm proud, and the rest will follow." But not, apparently, compensation.

WHEN THE EAGLE LANDS

In 1969, as captain of the U.S. spacing Eagle, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin became the second man on the moon. Now, after a long battle with alcoholism and depression, Aldrin, 62, writes his story on the celebrity circuit. "I am writing some science fiction, and I have some interest in designing a line of space suits—nothing definite," he told recent sports journalists at Lake Louise, Alta. Mention a piece of half-a-dozen jewelry worn by another guest, Aldrin smiled wistfully. "This would really still mean an awful lot to me."

'No good guys or bad guys'

Before completing *Dogma* last spring, Richard Linklater had not produced a movie since 1981. "Frankly, and the 30-year-old lawyer and actor, who used the eight-year period to hone his skills as a securities litigation lawyer in San Francisco, I was wondering whether I could still make a reasonable buck." Now, *Dogma* of God's a complex courtroom drama that focuses on the justice system's treatment of women, it's got best actor in him from a month after his release. Clearly, that speed worked in part from the movie's tagline: Linklater said that he was inspired by one of 20th-century intellectual crises, the marriage of William Kennedy Smith and the nomination battles of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. But the actor added that he does not want to oversimplify the issues involved. "If the women in court go to black hats and white hats," Linklater said, "then the courtroom isn't the 'bad guys.' There are several guys and bad guys—just people."



Linklater: the courtroom novel as the 'vicious'

IN SEARCH OF A TURNAROUND

THE CLINTON TEAM PREPARES PLANS TO KICK-START THE ECONOMY AND CUT THE DEFICIT AT THE SAME TIME

President Bill Clinton, who promised to lead "the most powerful nation in the world" to "a new era of peace and prosperity," is now in a bind. He is looking for a way to cut the deficit and stimulate the economy at the same time. The good news: The U.S. economy is growing, and the deficit is shrinking. The bad news: The U.S. economy is still in a recession, and the deficit is still large.

The Clinton team is preparing plans to kick-start the economy and cut the deficit at the same time. The good news: The U.S. economy is growing, and the deficit is shrinking. The bad news: The U.S. economy is still in a recession, and the deficit is still large.

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week, Labor Secretary Robert Reich, an advocate of stimulus, outlined Clinton's expected two-track program. He said that the President would likely propose a solid-state economic stimulus package in the range of \$19 billion to \$25 billion to be spent this year on public works and job training. But he added that "in the longer term we are going to have to tackle the budget deficit." That would likely entail raising some taxes and cutting some government programs—unpopular decisions for the 34 Senators, 22 of them Democrats, who face reelection in 1994. Meanwhile, some analysts questioned whether the President can attain either goal by pursuing both simultaneously.

Paul J. Ryan, president of the conservative Washington-based Economic Policy Institute, "Wanted to stimulate the economy and then you can breathe out and reduce the deficit. You can't do both at the same time."

The new congressional estimates also showed the \$99-billion budget deficit—driven by increases in the \$16-billion national debt—doubling in a decade. That caused



pressure on Clinton to make concrete deficit-reduction proposals in his economic plan. According to the Budget Office, rapidly rising costs of Medicare and Medicaid health programs for the elderly and poor are the main reasons for the huge increases. It was noted that it will be difficult to reduce federal health-care costs at the same time that Clinton plans to extend coverage to the estimated 37 million Americans who lack health insurance. Last week, Clinton himself put that problem in the lap of his lawyer wife, Hillary. Appearing her own of the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform, he asked for a reform plan to be ready for Congress by May.

To slash the deficit, Budget Director Leon Panetta and the President's Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) are working on a plan to cut spending cuts for every \$1 in tax increases. The cuts would likely be made to defense and social programs, while the increases would come from higher income taxes on the rich and a likely new energy conservation tax—helping the middle class despite Clinton's promise not to do so. White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos said that all options are being considered, including energy taxes, speeding cuts, health-care cost proposals and trimming the overall size of the federal government.

Meanwhile, Fiat and some other experts argue that, even at \$25 billion, Clinton's economic stimulus would be too small to have a major effect in the context of a \$75-billion economy. That falls well short of the \$75-billion increase needed to get the deficit under



Clinton and aides in the Oval Office. Reich (below): Federal spending to create jobs, new taxes and cutbacks an salutary and social programs

control. And it is a policy compared with the \$110-billion spending over the next 10 years to increase the jobs when the \$3.8-trillion economy is at the start of the U.S. economy.

Still, other major U.S. cities are taking a different view. Britain is looking at the \$110-billion spending over the next 10 years to increase the jobs when the \$3.8-trillion economy is at the start of the U.S. economy.

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proach in reducing the \$34.4-billion budget deficit. Said Van Dusen: "There may be some programs in the budget, but we are not going to see any large-scale spending spree." But not far from crisis: Steve Landon, for one, argues that Canada must move more heavily in the infrastructure. Said Landon: "If they do that in the United States and we don't have some parallel efforts in Canada, we are talking about a payoff in the States in five or 10 years that's going to make them significantly more competitive than we are."

Although the details of Clinton's economic plan will not be made public until July 17, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, America's central banker, said last week that he agreed with "as general things" Greenspan, widely considered the nation's most powerful economic policy-maker, laid a congressional committee that he led said that Clinton's \$125-billion stimulus would create the economy and force his institution to raise interest rates to dampen a new outbreak of inflation. He also said that financial markets welcome Clinton's commitment to reduce the deficit. It was a welcome sign of approval for a new President buffeted by mixed economic signals.

ANDREW KILSKI with NIGARY MACKENZIE in Washington and correspondents report

World Notes

MILITARY ORIENTATION

President Bill Clinton directed his annual foreign policy message to Congress about the world's most serious threats. He said that the world's most serious threats are the spread of nuclear weapons, the growth of terrorism, and the rise of authoritarianism. He said that the world's most serious threats are the spread of nuclear weapons, the growth of terrorism, and the rise of authoritarianism.

BAKAR ESCALATION

Some 20,000 rebelled in a Cote d'Ivoire military revolt on the 10th, trying to overthrow the government. The rebels were led by a former Cote d'Ivoire military officer, the Secretary-General of the Cote d'Ivoire, who said that the rebels were trying to overthrow the government. The rebels were led by a former Cote d'Ivoire military officer, the Secretary-General of the Cote d'Ivoire, who said that the rebels were trying to overthrow the government.

ISRAEL REMAINS FIRMLY

The Palestine Liberation Organization called for the UN Security Council to impose economic sanctions on Israel for refusing to withdraw from the West Bank. The PLO said that it was "deeply disappointed" that the UN Security Council had not imposed economic sanctions on Israel. The PLO said that it was "deeply disappointed" that the UN Security Council had not imposed economic sanctions on Israel.

A VICTORY FOR HAVEL

In Prague, Vaclav Havel was elected president of the Czech Republic. Havel was elected president of the Czech Republic. Havel was elected president of the Czech Republic. Havel was elected president of the Czech Republic.

DEMOCRACY ON HOLD

Kerry's President Donald Rumsfeld said that the U.S. would not support the Czech Republic's parliament one day after it elected a new opposition member in 1994. Rumsfeld said that the U.S. would not support the Czech Republic's parliament one day after it elected a new opposition member in 1994.

ALBANIAN JUSTICE

An Albanian court sentenced Nedžad Bećarević to 10 years in prison for his role in the Bosnian genocide. The court said that Bećarević was guilty of genocide. The court said that Bećarević was guilty of genocide.



THE UNITED STATES

Socks, underwear, action!

A new spokesman takes the media's heat

In the first days of the Clinton administration, his attorney face has appeared around the world in daily interviews. White House spokesman Bill Clinton has the 31-year-old George Stephanopoulos, President Bill Clinton's boyish young communications director, in just his new position into perspective, it is his parents, Rev. Robert and Nikki Stephanopoulos, "Power is corrupting," says his father. "Doris of New York City's Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Cathedral," and it can lead to corruption." But, added the pastor, who steps from the cathedral to his apartment next door and joins his wife to watch his son's twilight live on television. "We try to keep George mindful of where he came from—and who he is."

Last week, after Stephanopoulos faced several grueling days poring with members of the media on issues as diverse as allowing gays and lesbians into the military and the arrival of the Clinton family out, Socks, at the White House, his parents' advice was down to earth: "We told him he should show man," said his father. "He suggested early in the morning and again mid afternoon if he is going on TV." In a brief telephone conversation, they asked the spokesman for the world's most powerful leader if he was comfortable in his look from apartment in downtown Washington, and if he was sleeping well, eating properly and working out. They mailed new socks and underwear to their son, who presents himself to the world in business suits and in new sets of Washington's most elegant men—except the fact that he has a girlfriend, an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia. Finally, to work him back, his parents sent a Greek note to St. George, his patron saint.

In his jet position at the White House, Stephanopoulos may want all the good fortune he can get. He is one of only a handful of aides with direct access to the President, a protégé that brings with it heavy responsibilities. "It is almost an existential job," said Bill Meyers, former press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson. "You have to be the president's alter ego, actor, his situation, his tension and his hopes." Added Richard Cord Sr. De-Portment spokesman during Jimmy Carter's presidency, "He is the person out there carry-

ing the spear for the administration and doing daily combat. He is a shorthand version of the president."

Stephanopoulos has already run ahead of the White House press corps by leaving access to his West-wing office and threatening to move presidential pool reporters from their White House quarters to the Old Executive Office



Stephanopoulos: power and pressure

building next door. The perks of office have swiftly become close. Journalists who had traded the evening Democrats, said Meyers, are now "lighting headlamps under their feet"—and Stephanopoulos takes most of the heat. After one particularly outrageous exchange as a media insider, veteran correspondent Miles Truitt, who has covered every president since John Kennedy, told Stephanopoulos: "Welcome to the big leagues."

But some of the pressures come from within the administration, as it attempts to settle into power. In the first week, there were several mistakes in Clinton's nomination for attorney gen-

eral, Ted Beard, withdrew because of revelations that she had forced illegal immigrants in household help. Davis on Stephanopoulos was trying to distance the President from the focus, press secretary Don DeMeyer stated boldly that Clinton knew of Beard's illegal legal aid along. The President himself then stepped forward and took full responsibility only after Stephanopoulos had been handling the issue for several days.

People who know Stephanopoulos well say that he has the strength of character to deal with his new challenges. He grew up in the suburbs of New York City and Cleveland, Ohio. According to his mother, Stephanopoulos, who was the second of three children, was a studious youth who preferred reading to playing with toys, and TV news programs to cartoons. While Stephanopoulos said that George, his brother and two sisters were raised in respect and honor their elders, said Father George Papadimitriou, a family friend of St. George's Greek Orthodox Christian Church in Bethesda, Md. "He has such a solid character and Christian upbringing that he will not be tempted by the pressures of office or by the arrogance of power."

Despite his youth, Stephanopoulos has been studying the conditions of power since a child. A graduate of New York City's Columbia University, where he studied international politics, and Oxford University, where he studied theology and ethics in a Rhodes Scholarship, Stephanopoulos abandoned an earlier ambition to become a pastor in favor of a political career. "I don't think it was politics he much to public service," said his mother. In 1983, Stephanopoulos went to work as an assistant to Democratic Representative Edward Pinyan of Ohio. During the 1986 presidential election campaign, Stephanopoulos worked as a communications adviser to Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, the unsuccessful Democratic contender. After the election, he became an executive assistant to House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

As the 1989 presidential campaign wound, Republican Senator Robert Kevorkian and Clinton, then governor of Arkansas, both sought Stephanopoulos's services. According to Stephanopoulos, he was instantly attracted to the Clinton campaign and after taking a job as a communications director, developed an easy rapport with the Democratic campaign. Early in January, Clinton named him to his current position.

Now Stephanopoulos faces reporters eager to exploit any misstep or misstatement from the fledgling Clinton presidency into a misreading of his. Stephanopoulos's father said he has proudly remained his son of the Greek spirit of honor, who flew with wings, but perished at the Aegean Sea after sailing too close to the sun. Over the coming months the ability of Clinton's young spokesman to handle the pressures and pleasures of power will be severely tested in the combine atmosphere of the White House press briefing room—and beyond it.

HILARY MACKENZIE in Washington

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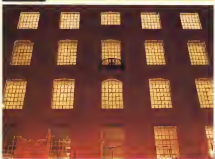
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MI-6's new quarters in London: resisting public calls for greater openness

BRITAIN

Spying on the spies

A Cold War tradition of secrecy lingers

Four men and a woman huddled outside the House of Commons in London. At a few minutes after noon, they jumped into two cars that swept them away to a clandestine meeting with a mysterious woman: the head of the legendary intelligence agency known as MI-6. The five were all British MPs, and their hush-hush session with MI-6 director-general Stella Rington in mid-January was supposed to be a step towards greater openness and public scrutiny of the country's security services. As it turned out, the rendezvous unfolded more of a scene from a bad spy novel than the workings of a modern democracy. A score of journalists, tipped off to the supposedly secret meeting, pursued the MI-6 through London in a cordon of taxis and motorbikes, eventually tracking them to MI-6's headquarters where Rington entertained them at lunch in a private dining room. One of the participants, Labour MP Michael O'Brien, later acknowledged that the whole episode was "barbaric and utterly stupid."

Britain's security services are under more pressure than ever before to show public scrutiny of their operations—a process traditionally restricted mainly to Canada, the United States and other democracies. With the end of the Cold War, more the Russian KGB allows

more light into its inner workings than do MI-6, MI-6 (which handles overseas intelligence) and the other shadowy agencies that make up Britain's intelligence network. In recent weeks, repeated suggestions that the security services were involved in intercepting the telephone conversations of the Prince and Princess of Wales have fuelled public calls for greater openness. But those demands collide with the tradition of secrecy that envelops so much of British public life—especially anything that touches on security. Says O'Brien: "The great British disease is secrecy."

In recent months that secrecy has been gradually eroded, although in ways that often lead to bizarre inconsistencies. When the government appointed Rington early last year, it disclosed the new head of MI-6 by name for the first time in what is said to be a sign of the new openness that it wanted to bring to the security services. But it did not issue a photograph of her, and newspapers have been able to locate only a couple of out-of-focus pictures showing a woman with short dark hair. It has also released little personal information about Rington, the first woman to head MI-6, which is responsible for counterespionage and counterterrorism inside Britain. A 57-year-old career intelligence officer who turns about

\$145,000 a year, she makes no public statements or appearances, and the government has refused a request from MPs to question her on security matters. Instead, it arranged the lunch on condition that the MI-6 would reveal nothing about what was discussed.

The leaks of the new openness are apparent in other areas, as well. Government officials will not confirm such mundane details as the location of MI-6's headquarters, even though every British newspaper has identified it as a seven-story office building on Gower Street in central London.

With the Cold War over, MI-6's traditional work of being the effort of Soviet Espionage in Britain is a thing of the past. In May, though, the government ordered the agency to take over intelligence operations against Irish Republican Army terrorism in mainland Britain, a job previously done by the police. That switch led MI-6 last month to demand that the government allow a Commons committee to scrutinize the workings of MI-6. Such scrutiny, they argued, does not erode similar bodies such as the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency or the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, whose head, Raymond Firth, can be summoned to testify before several bodies, including Ottawa's Security Intelligence Review Committee.

So far, though, Prime Minister John Major's Conservative government has said only that it might allow a group of Privy Counsellors, usually former ministers and senior MPs who have taken a special oath of secrecy, to oversee the Security Service, as MI-6 is officially known. That would include ordinary MI-6, and many of them say it is little for short of true openness. They tell Rupert Allason, who has written a dozen books about the spy business under the pen name Nigel West, says that Britain should move towards what he calls "the Canadian model" by setting up a committee to oversee intelligence agencies and prevent abuses. Those abuses, according to some experts, may have even included tapping phone conversations of Prince Charles and Diana with their alleged lovers, and then leaking them to the press. According to some theorists, only such agencies as MI-6 and the Government Communications Headquarters, which monitors and intercepts communications around the world, have the expertise and access needed to bug the royals. Even the man whose mistake may have led more than anything else to create the aura of mystery that still clings to Britain's security establishment jumped into the fray. Nowhere (David) Cornwell, whose fiction pen name is John le Carré, revealed that the output was most likely a disaffected member of one of the security agencies. The government dismisses such suggestions as nonsense. But that is unlikely to curb public worries as British spies probably come at from the cold.

ANDREW PHILLIPS in London



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VIETNAM

Missing answers

A wife seeks the truth from the Pentagon

On Jan. 27, 1973, the United States formally agreed to withdraw from Vietnam. Within 60 days of signing a peace accord in Paris, all American combat troops left South Vietnam. In exchange, North Vietnam released 581 Americans held as prisoners of war.

But that number may not have included all of those captured during American operations in neighboring Laos and Cambodia as well as in Vietnam. On Jan. 12, members of a U.S. Senate committee released the results of the first thorough investigation to ferret into the fate of America's missing. It confirmed that some were "captured in return [for 1973] deal not"

The committee found no proof that any missing Americans are still alive, but committee chairman Senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, acknowledged "the possibility of survival at least for a small number."

To thousands of living Americans—the relatives of more than 2,000 servicemen and women unaccounted for in Southeast Asia—those conclusions were far from satisfying. For Kay Marker, wife of Capt. Michael Marker, an army pilot missing in action since 1971, the report confirmed startling information. Dallas Bureau Chief Clara Wood interviewed her this report.

Height of the Vietnam War: more than 2,000 remains unaccounted for

The mutant darkness was anomalously warm on an evening in November, 1966, when Kay and Michael Marker were married in Wichita Falls, a town in the north Texas plains. She was a local woman. He was the son of an air force couple. "We got married on Veterans' Day so that we'd always have a holiday for our anniversary," Kay recalled. Three months later, after volunteering, her husband reported to an army boot camp in December, 1968. Two days after Kay gave birth to a baby daughter to join their 18-month-old son, the young father graduated from army flying school as a pilot. Within a year, Capt. Michael Marker was flying a converted twin-engine Beechcraft airplane packed with electronic countermeasures equipment and a crew of five crew members in Vietnam. Then on March 8, 1971, two army reserve officers arrived at the couple's apartment in Wichita Falls. "They said he was missing in action and there was essentially

no other information," Kay Marker remembers. "I ran to my room and lay on my bed and just sobbed."

She is posed in the links back on that day. Decked board and slender at 47, Kay Marker, with her Southern drawl, and skin complexion against an Albuquerque, N.M., the pain of her husband's loss faded with time, overlaid with more recent tragedies, notably the death of her daughter Suzanne from leukemia in 1988, at 18. Marker also understands that dozens of other veterans of America's unaccounted-for servicemen have confronted similar anguish. Still, from time to time she has turned up fragments of information about her husband's fate that contradict the sparse official account that she received a few weeks after that initial visit by the officers. Then, she was told that her husband had died in the crash. "I know in my heart he wasn't dead," Marker says. "But I was only 25 years old. I was a good army wife and I never questioned. I was very naive."

Later events cast doubt on the official version of what had happened to her husband. In 1971, Marker received a letter from a pilot who she does not work because that challenged the total account of where the aircraft went down; the letter indicated that it was in North, not South, Vietnam. Meanwhile, Marker was told that the full records of her husband's loss would be classified for at least 18 years (later shortened to 10 years).

After her daughter's illness was diagnosed late in 1974, Marker moved her family to San Antonio, Tex., where Suzanne could receive better treatment. Privately, she struggled in critical periods of depression. "I went through a lameness crisis," she recalls. "At 22, I felt old." It was not until 1977 that she sought some information about her husband. Taking advantage of the year-old U.S. Freedom of Information Act, Marker filed a request for her husband's army personnel file. Two years later, her request was granted.

But the documents that Marker was allowed to see in 1979 only compounded her confusion. Said Marker: "When I got the file, I was reluctant to turn in everything they had told me in 1971. I turned out to be incorrect." In fact, the file showed that some time after the war, military officials changed their estimate of where the airplane was last, shifting the location from South to North Vietnam. Other documents indicated that Marker and his crew might have survived the deadly crash; one even hinted at a radio contact made half an hour after the plane was believed to have been shot down. Finally, the file confirmed that Marker's fellow officers had concluded in 1971 that he probably survived the crash, and recommended that the army be linked in some way to assist.

Kay Marker renewed her search for answers, just as in a new Republican administration was taking office in Washington. Among its coming president Ronald Reagan's advisers were several who strongly supported active efforts to locate this missing man in Vietnam. Indeed, as the 10th anniversary of the U.S.

withdrawal from Vietnam passed in January, 1983, Americans were again debating the war—and the fate of the missing personnel. From Hollywood, a series of popular movies told of daring, if imaginary, rescues of missing Americans. Marker said that she long was stopped waiting for his return. "I don't suspect any American prisoners of war to come out of Southeast Asia," she says. Now, the best that she hopes for is simply a full and credible explanation of what really did happen to her husband, declared Marker. "It is an American serviceman. He has every right to be accounted for."

Developments just before Christmas badly rocked Marker's detachment. On Dec. 6, a friend who had traveled before Kerry's select committee, passed on a list, provided by the ornate leadership, of 254 men who were known or believed to have survived, those so-called "last seen alive." One of the names was Michael Marker. Beside it was an assurance, "possibly captured alive from out of the Jan. 1971 accident alive and captured." The wording contradicted most of what the Pentagon had insisted upon for more than two decades. And it confirmed Marker's long-held faith in her husband's survival, despite the odds. "I hadn't really made any more effort recently. This something like this. I can't let it pass."

The executive's conclusion a month later that U.S. forces may have lost some 100 men behind in 1973 did not surprise Kay Marker. Whether Michael, still alive nearly two years after his presumed capture, was among the survivors, she does not know. But she is better that the army was so quick to declare him dead, despite evidence to the contrary. "They always

done my best."

More than two decades after her husband's last mission, Kay Marker acknowledges that her demand for a full accounting may never be met. Indeed, she wonders aloud whether any account now of his fate would satisfy her deeply extended obsession of the war and the military. "They've led me many times," she said. "Where do you know when you've got the right one?" Her doubts, plainly shared by many other Americans, remain that the final chapter on the Vietnam War's missing veterans has yet to be written.

Marker took one look at the picture and said that it was not him. By the end of the 1960s, Marker felt that she was running out of answers to explain.

Although she says that she is still convinced that her husband survived at least the crash of his aircraft, Marker adds that she long was stopped waiting for his return. "I don't suspect any American prisoners of war to come out of Southeast Asia," she says. Now, the best that she hopes for is simply a full and credible explanation of what really did happen to her husband, declared Marker. "It is an American serviceman. He has every right to be accounted for."

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CHRIS WOOD in Dallas



Marker: new evidence contradicts the first story



Casting molten iron in a Sielco blast furnace: a new trade dispute places financial strains on Canada's steel producers

BUSINESS

STEELING HOME

On the first day at his new job, John Mayberry got much more than an executive suite, a big salary and a plan parking spot. Instead, just one day after he took over as president and chief executive officer of Hamilton-based Dofasco Inc., the company became embroiled in bitter trade war between Canadian and U.S. steel producers. Acting on complaints from 12 American steel companies of "dumping"—selling pricing—the U.S. Commerce Department imposed a series of provisional duties against imports from 39 countries, including Canada. Although Canadian producers were among the least severely penalized by the duties—which ranged as high as 10% per ton—the reaction was sharp. Frederick Telser, chairman of Inco Inc., Canada's largest steel company, denounced the ruling as "absurd and destructive," an opinion that col-

CANADIAN STEEL PRODUCERS FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES AGAINST CHARGES OF DUMPING STEEL IN U.S. MARKETS

ored across the industry. But even in the Canada's steel industry, and Ottawa officials, with some exceptions, industry leaders left the door open. Said Mayberry: "We've got to work in co-operation to prevent the dumping of

foreign steel in the North American market. We're in this together."

Canadian steel executives have aggressively proposed an integrated, continental steel market, governed by an accord similar to the 1985 Auto Pact, since June. At that time, U.S. producers first accused them of dumping, or charging prices in America that were significantly below production costs and domestic levels. That campaign finally reached a political level last week, when International Trade Minister Michael Wilson advocated the formation of a bi-continental private-sector panel to resolve the steel issue. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown, however, rejected a deal of hand, calling instead for a multilateral accord. But Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said that the issue would be a "priority" during a planned visit with President Bill Clinton.

Still, according to Frederick Lazar, an asso-

ciate professor at York University in Toronto, a bilateral easing of the tensions between the two countries would not be an adequate long-term solution. "The basic problem is global steel overcapacity and the need to undertake a major adjustment of the entire industry," said Lazar. But he added that the United States is squeezing its competitors to force them to contract or to sell their steel and the related social costs, including massive layoffs.

The Ontario government's financial rescue of Algoma Steel Corp. Inc. of Sault Ste. Marie in March, 1992, clearly illustrates the complex local and social problems associated with the industry's pending rebranding. Although steel analysts expressed reservations about Algoma's long-term prospects for survival, the cost of eliminating 4,000 jobs in an economically underdeveloped region during a severe recession apparently outweighed the cost of a \$110-million provincial bailout.

San Gregory Mironoff, chief analyst with Westport-Richardson, Goussard & Co. Ltd., "Government intervention and investment is a temporary remedy." He added, "Steel is no longer the backbone of our economy, but it is still a disproportionately large employer and that disturbs the state."

Despite the current problems of overcapacity, emphasizing the \$135-billion global steel industry, it has already contracted significantly. Between 1985 and 1990, steel production by major Western industrialized nations shrank by about 21 per cent to an estimated 430 million tons annually. At the same time, that shrinkage triggered a sharp increase in the competitive pressures within the market and a need to use advanced technology to improve productivity and reduce operating costs. But a world Canadian industry that began in the 1960s made Canadian steel an increasingly competitive on the international market. That needed many of the underlying problems, allowing domestic steel producers to avoid the layoffs, plant closures and technology investment that characterized the industry elsewhere.

In 1990, three factors converged to plague Canadian steel producers with a destructive spiral: a higher Canadian dollar, the declining use of steel in the automotive industry, and the recession, which sharply curtailed demand for steel in other areas as well. Said Mulroney: "Steel Canadians are selling below cost—but so is everyone else, including the United States. It's a devastated market. The average world selling price for steel fell to \$547 a ton

from \$832 between 1981 and 1992 alone."

Meanwhile last week, in an action clearly intended as retaliation, Revenue Canada ordered duties of its own against steel imported from the United States and five other countries. The announcement took the form of spiking complaints from Sielco and Algoma that American and other producers were dumping their products in Canada. The new Canadian duties range from 4.5 per cent to 19.3 per cent.

Canadian steel companies have become increasingly dependent on U.S. markets in recent years and the industry trade between the two countries was valued at about \$3.1 billion in 1991. According to Leo Gerard, national director of the United States Association of American Iron and Steel, more than 300 Canadian companies that formerly bought domestic steel have relocated to the United States since the end of 1991. Gerard noted that the exodus of Canadian industry to the south, combined with recent technological advances in the industrial sector, have resulted in a 600,000-ton annual drop in domestic steel consumption.

Following last week's U.S. action, Gerard and others who opposed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) when it came into force in 1989 claimed victory. Edward Philip, minister of industry, trade and commerce for Ontario, said Mulroney's "FTA was supposed to prevent these incidents and, instead, trade harassment has increased." Under the dispute-resolution mechanism of the FTA, trade issues from the two countries are supposed to be settled by a bilateral trade panel. Still, junior-sector groups, including the U.S. steel producers, retain the right to launch dumping cases against exporters if they can substantiate their claims. But, and William Kampling, Conservative MP for Burlington, Ont., who heads the parliamentary steel caucus in Ottawa. "Anytime you're separate from the FTA and we need a special steel accord. That takes two to make an accord and the United States does not wish to hold hands."

To retain access to the U.S. market without such special status, Canadian companies have to make cash deposits or post bonds with the U.S. Customs Service to cover the provisional damages due to the dumped products. Those duties will be refunded if Washington dismisses the dumping charges. According to U.S. trade law, dumping occurs when a product is sold for less in the American market than the cost of production. Furthermore, foreign exporters must also be able to prove that they are making a profit of eight per cent on U.S. sales to avoid charges of dumping. According to the American steel producers, Canada is not doing enough to ensure that foreign producers are selling at a fair, untaxed and government-subsidized price in their market.

With the duties now in place, the Commerce Department has to make a final determination by April and the International Trade Commission has to determine if any damage has been done to the U.S. steel industry by the dumped goods. It is expected to take until the end of June, said Lazar from the time the charges were made,

Business Notes

JOB-HOPPER

The flamboyant chairman and chief executive officer of former Crown corporation Petro-Canada, was strongly "relieved" of his duties last week after a meeting of the company's board of directors. Whether Hopper, 68, will be replaced by Petro-Canada's president and chief operating officer, James Stanford, 55. In his 17 years with the integrated oil company, Hopper became well-known for his political connections and his forthright comments. In 1991, the company, which is undergoing a major restructuring, lost \$545 million. For 1992, it reported earnings of \$9 million.

CUTS AT TELUS

Telecom Canada, which transmits telecommunications and provides signals by satellite across Canada and the United States, laid off 12 people from its 26-member management team. Larry Beisvert, president of the Ottawa-based company, said that Telecom, governed by the federal government, laid off 12 employees who lay off a number of the company's 945 employees by April.

THIRD TIME LUCKY?

Montreal-based Montreal Bank, which had twice before to help a trust company, said that it will spend up to \$150 million to buy out portions of the Quebec division of General Trustco of Canada Inc. It is the fifth-largest trust company in Canada with assets of \$3.6 billion. Shareholders at the bank's annual meeting questioned why Montreal would buy part of a trust that lost more than \$14 million the first two months of 1992.

MAINTENANCE MEN

Chicago-based Sears, Roebuck & Co. and its retail unit cut about 30,000 full and part-time jobs, close 113 stores and shut down its major catalogue—the largest unit the company has made in the four years since it began trying to regain market share. A spokesman for Sears Canada Inc. said that the retail company's moves will cut 4,000 jobs in the retailer in Canada, which has already reduced its workforce to 44,000 employees from 50,000 in 1989.

BREATHING ROOM FOR OIL

The municipal creditors of Oxygas & York Development Ltd. worked out a deal with the company's restructuring plan. They were the list of 35 classes of creditors to vote on the plan, but were the only ones who could have vetoed it, a move that would have led to the company's liquidation. The deal was an unexpected delay of \$4.1 million will remain in place.

for American authorities to complete their final analysis. Steel Philip "It has taken two years to address the harassment even path trade—the steel and the can't be put on hold for that long."

Even before the announcement last week of the provisional penalties, the threat of a potential disruption of steel supply caused concern among the U.S. customers of Canadian producers and led some of them to seek new sources. Indeed, for these manufacturers that have a continuous production line, including automotive manufacturers, the risk of a steel shortage is unacceptable. A protracted and bitter labor strike against Stelco in 1990 forced many of its customers to find new suppliers and Stelco is still struggling to regain its former market share, according to steel industry analysts. Steel Industry's Mayberry: "Some of our customers are nervous about the reliability of supply, but we're making very hard to get them to relax."

For Stelco, the challenge of ensuring its customers exceeds beyond the recent trade penalties to growing concern about its longer-term prospects for survival. Already in a difficult position, the company received the highest U.S. penalty of all Canadian steel producers—68.7 per cent above current price for steel plate sold to the United States. Plans to make end-products in the pipeline and construction industries. Steel Richard Shaw, a corporate credit analyst with Dominion Bond Rating Service Ltd. in Toronto: "Stelco didn't have much



Algonquin Steel's seamless-tube mill: social pressures

room to maneuver in the first place. They're already being off-balance and this really stresses their bank." In the first six months of last year, Stelco paid out \$4.1 million interest alone on its \$796-million long-term debt load. In the first nine months of last year, it lost \$58 million, compared with a \$19-million loss in the same period a year earlier.

In response to the allegation of dumping duties against Canadian steel, Ontario's Philip said that the provincial government is prepa-

ring to introduce a special steel-industry task force to develop a survival strategy for the faltering sector. Philip said that he hopes to include federal government representatives as well as industry and labor in the group. Said the United Steelworkers' Gerard: "If we only on a series of individual strategies that focus only on making single firms competitive, we are lost." He added: "Rather than government bailouts, we're looking for strategic adjustments like public works projects that use domestic steel and spur the economy forward."

For his part, however, Lauer said that he is convinced that a unilateral approach to a multilateral issue is ill-favored long-term value. "As a relatively weak player, Canada will bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the global industry's costly rationalization—unless it bands together with others," said Lauer. He added that the recent steel ruling provides Canada with an opportunity to join forces with the other 18 countries charged with dumping and to stand up against the United States. Peter Meiss, a North American trade specialist at the University of Toronto in Ontario, said, however, that Canada's role in the dispute is accidental and that Japan is at greater risk in all sectors. But for embattled Canadian steel producers, who must now deal with a greatly complicated regime for exports to their main market, this is solid comfort.

DEBORAH MCMEIKEN

THE TRADE DISPUTE DOCKET

Under the mechanisms established in the Free Trade Agreement, a binational panel reviews and arbitrates trade disputes between Canada and the United States. Cases currently under review:

- Products: replacement parts for self-propelled off-highway power equipment from Canada
Panelists: Canadian exporter and U.S. producer
Status: panel decision April 7 and May 12, 1993
- Products: live hogs
Panelists: Canadian and provincial governments and Canadian producers
Status: panel decision Nov. 19, 1992
- Products: softwood lumber products (two cases)
Panelists: Canadian and provincial governments and Canadian producers
Status: panel decisions due May 8 and June 4, 1993
- Products: Puro and alloy magnesium (three cases)
Panelists: Government of Quebec and Canadian producer
Status: panel decisions due June 21, July 26 and Aug. 6, 1993
- Products: beer exports to British Columbia
Panelists: Peter Saveling Co., G. Hallam Saveling Co., S. Saveling Co.
Status: panel hearing started Jan. 7, 1993

- Products: machine-built ceiling (two cases)
Panelists: U.S. producers
Status: panel decision April 7 and May 12, 1993
- Products: gypsum board
Panelists: U.S. producers
Status: panel decision Nov. 18, 1992

CASE CLOSED

The following product disputes have been resolved under FTA:

- ✓ Red raspberries
- ✓ Drifted, chilled codfish
- ✓ Fresh, chilled and frozen pork
- ✓ New steel rail
- ✓ Oil country tubular goods (OCTG)
- ✓ Iron construction castings
- ✓ Polyphase and carbon motors
- ✓ Integral horsepower induction motors
- ✓ West Coast herring and salmon

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Wings of survival

Vacationers keep Canada's charter airlines aloft

The first press on the back of the glossy tour brochure addresses travellers that they will have to pay "100 per cent of purchase price" if they cancel their vacation within 14 days of their departure. But that warning does not deter hundreds of thousands of Canadians from taking charter flights to warm and sunny places each winter. The traditional escape to a tropical climate has helped Canada's charter airlines weather the downturn in the industry, which lost \$3 billion worldwide last year. And now, with the recession apparently ending, many charter-industry executives are confident in predicting even brighter years ahead. Says Robert Gladu, president of Montreal-based Natasair Canada: "The future is strong."

Until recently, Gladu's optimism would have been seriously misplaced. Since 1996, seven Canadian charter airlines have gone out of business, including Westways and Seaside/Voyage International. The ones that survive include nine-year-old Natasair, Canada's third-largest airline and largest charter firm, Toronto-based Canada 3000 Airlines Ltd.,

formed in 1998, and Montreal-based Air Transat, a subsidiary of Groupe Transat, formed in 1987. One common reason for the jet charter business during the recession in 1999, Montreal-based Royal Aircares expanded its far-flung activities, adding two Boeing 737-300s to carry leisure travellers.

For their part, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. and scheduled carriers. They operate hundreds of flights each day at set times to set destinations and travellers can buy tickets at their counters alone and departures time. The charter airlines can usually offer lower prices because they do not have the scheduled airlines' high fixed costs such as computerized reservation systems. Charter airlines must sell their seats to tour operators, who may also put together packages that include accommodation as well as transportation, and then sell them to travel agents. To take advantage of cheap charter seats, travellers must book their flight ahead of time, and have little opportunity to change their plans once the ticket is bought.

According to at least one analyst, the recent

slullness in the charter industry means that the survivors should now be stronger than ever. Says Eric Delpland, an airline analyst with Marston Lemay Securities Inc. in Vancouver: "The process of rationalization is over, the recession is over, leisure travel is going back up after coming over territories during the Gulf War. The industry is back on track."

At will, the charter business may benefit from changes occurring at Canada's two financially struggling scheduled carriers. Montreal-based Air Canada and Calgary-based Canadian Airlines each operate vacation-tour subsidiaries that book charters on their respective airlines' planes. Between them, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines carry about one-third of the four million Canadians who take a charter flight each year. Still, the two airlines combined continue to lose nearly \$5 million a day on their overall operations.

As a result, charter-industry executives say that there are three developments that could help them expand their market share. For one thing, Canada and Air Canada could volun-



Natasair jet in Montreal competing directly with the scheduled carriers

tarily reduce the overcapacity in the airline system and start to focus more on their scheduled flights, cutting back on their charter business. For another, Canadian, which has a shorter credit line than Air Canada, could go out of business. Or, Canadian's parent, PMA Corp., could conclude an investment deal with

an employer and with Port Worth, Texas-based American Airlines Inc. Then, although it would cost just 25 per cent of PMA, the U.S. airline would probably force its Canadian partner to restructure its business. Says Royal Aircares president Michel LeMay: "Every way you look at it, there has to be an adjustment as

capacity—and most will come from the scheduled carriers."

The charter airlines all have different strategies to prepare for that. Natasair has now taken as its two larger rivals head-to-head by adding to its charter operations regularly scheduled flights at non-peak times in some of Canada's most heavily travelled routes. To keep its planes flying in the fall, traditionally a slow period for charters, which carry Canadian passengers to Europe in the summer and to the tropics in the winter, in October, Natasair added scheduled flights between Toronto and Montreal for \$85 one way. That compared with round-trip fares of \$245 (including taxes) on Air Canada and Canadian. And last month, Natasair added two daily flights between Toronto and Halifax for \$179 one way.

Historically, the strategy of competing directly with the big carriers on scheduled routes has failed. Westair Inc., a successful Edmonton-based charter operator, in 1986 began offering scheduled flights across Canada. By April, 1989, it had lost so much money that Stanley Maxwell, Westair's boss, was forced to sell to PMA. Six months later, PMA, which had continued to operate Westair under its own banner, merged the airline with Canadian, which has yet to recover financially from the acquisition. "We were wrong," says Gladu, "but it is a confidence that Natasair can avoid Westair's collapse. He said that his company added no new routes when it began scheduled service—unlike Westair, which bought \$2 billion worth of new equipment. "We are still mainly a charter company," he said. Gladu added that he can compete effectively on the scheduled routes because his cost structure is considerably lower than either Air Canada's or Canadian's. He said that the airline can make money at a yield of six cents per passenger mile, while the other two only break even at 17 cents a passenger mile.

For his part, Air Canada spokesman Denis Costeau said that the former Crown corporation plans to remain competitive. "Natasair is selling us to where the price goes way instead of two," he said. "We cannot afford not to bring our pricing into line." Indeed, this week Air Canada will begin offering a conditional Toronto-Halifax return fare of \$289, compared with \$331 one-way for the usual economy fare.

Air Transat has taken a different tack to ensure its continued survival in the \$2.3-billion Canadian charter industry. In 1991, a group of local industry executives formed Group Transat, which integrated all sectors of the industry, from travel agencies and tour operators to air transportation. Air Transat carries passengers for other, unrelated tour operators from across Canada, but at least 60 per cent of the charter airline's business comes from winter subsidiaries of Group Transat: Red Phoebe Skiways, executive vice-president of marketing and sales. "We sell a vacation, not just transportation." For most of the Canadians who take a charter each year, that is exactly what they want.

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- Group Transat
- Red Phoebe Skiways



Lament for the fall of family dynasties

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

Two weeks ago in Toronto, they held a memorial service for Sydney Herment, who died on December 23, just a week after his company, Imperial Capital, went into receivership and just four days short of his 60th birthday. At the memorial service, a witness employee came up to one of the Herment sons and said, "You know, your problem was that you were far too generous with everybody."

The company had overextended in the 1980s and had nearly all of its bank loans backed by commercial real estate, whose value was plummeted out of sight in the 1990s. Even though Herment had been a director for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and its predecessor, the Imperial Bank of Canada from 1960 to 1980—the first few appointees to any Canadian bank board—it was the Commerce that lurchered on his company. Family members aren't saying anything in public, but in private they're deeply resentful at the speed and manner in which the Commerce failed.

They feel that things could have been worked out, and that it was the Commerce's blunders with its wild Olympic & York over-lending that caused it to be so harsh with some of its smaller accounts. "The generous and pleasant people you are originally when you're borrowing the money from the bank," complains one of the Herments, "can cut the same hard cases you have to deal with when you're in trouble."

Three of the four sons have struck out on their own. Andy runs a recording company; Adam is with a safety-equipment firm, while John is backing after his own misadventure. Peter, who was brought in by his father to run Imperial in 2002, is at loose ends, trying to decide how to spend the rest of his life. "I think the receivers are hunting a hard time trying to find the yacht and racing horses," observes Peter's wife Kate. "We never held that kind of life."

As a note when family companies are being

private company and every dime goes straight back into the business."

What was unusual about the Herment approach was that even if all the shares were held by family members, they acted for special purposes like they were running a public company, with all of the accountability and cost control that implies. Well, not quite. "A home-line philosophy, pure and simple, a highly destructive to building loyalty and morale over a long period," Herment told us. "You end up saying that we're necessarily right in taking the long-term view, because nobody can predict the future. But we include ourselves in the occasional luxury."

He was referring to two Imperial employees who worked in an office next to his, both in their 60s, who still came in to work every day, mainly because they couldn't stand staying at home. "We once had a salesman," Herment recalled, "who until his late 80s came in about 10 o'clock every morning and did nothing but talk to his old cronies. Until the very day he died, he thought he was running the business. He kept dictating letters whenever he got upset with some imaginary customer, but none of them were ever transcribed, and he could never remember if he was expecting an answer." Just before it went into receivership, Imperial had 250 employees who had been on the payroll at least 25 years.

Because the business was highly profitable until the current recession, Herment had plenty of perches off. The Americans he once hosted would arrive and promise to make him a director of some huge multinational, offering a generous purchase price and use of their corporate jet. With the coveted air of a man pulling an imaginary chair, Herment would explain that there was no price high enough for him to surrender his freedom. "Nobody tells me," he said, "when to be in New York or Chicago, or somewhere else at any given moment." Inevitably, a few weeks later a higher-making offer would arrive with a letter bid, and when that was necessarily turned down, he too would leave, shaking his head, puzzled by the stubborn Canadians.

Away from the office, the Herment boys would amuse themselves by putting together a band to serenade the neighbors—a combination of bagpipes, gut bucket and guitars. They all lived within 1,500 m of each other in Toronto's heart, in a Toronto street, and once even took the band overseas to play at Adam's wedding. To get the gut bucket past customs, they declared it as a farm implement, and on the Saturday before the ceremony played the only unorchestrated concert ever performed in the Pantheon Room of London's smoking lounge. Herment.

This country was built on the evulsion of family firms into national enterprises, companies that watched their bottom lines, but at the same time fostered an atmosphere of caring and sharing. It's as if that seems to have died with this recession, which has bankrupted many of the firms that nurtured those worthy ideals.

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EDUCATION

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YNN provides schools with news—and ads

After an initial experiment in 1990 in three Montreal high schools, experts expressed surprise in the results. Each day for three weeks, students watched a 15-minute news and current affairs television program produced by a company supported by a group of Montreal businessmen. According to Scott Corbett, director general of the Laurentian School Board, students "would look at the news clips and start to talk about what was happening in the world. The teachers were quite amazed." The project, called Youth News Network (YNN), is the creation of Rodenick MacDonald, a former Montreal-based TV producer who is trying to persuade school boards across Canada to sign up with him. The proposed network, which would carry advertising into schools, has provoked angry criticism in some parts of the country. Despite that, MacDonald says that more than 100 schools will be participating when YNN begins operating in both English and

French, in September. MacDonald's network has generated controversy because critics say that, by trying to deliver advertisements to a captive audience of impressionable high-school students. Under the terms of the deal that not a offering school boards, the network would provide a school with about \$50,000 in TV ads and other equipment for up to five years. In return, school boards would have to agree to expose students to a 12-minute newscast containing 2½ minutes of corporate advertising each school day. Critics of the plan say that commercial TV should have no place in a school system. MacDonald's proposed network is modelled partly on the three-year-old Knoxville, Tenn.-based

Channel One, launched in the United States by publisher and broadcaster Christopher Whittle. The controversial channel currently broadcasts sponsored news programs in more than 12,000 schools in 30 states, including New Jersey, New York and North Carolina, have refused to let their public schools sign on with Channel One because of the ads.

In Canada, some education advocates have voiced reservations about YNN's plan. Prince Rupert, a director of the Hudson's Bay Association for Media Literacy of Nova Scotia, says that she is "very concerned that schools are willing to sell their time space to a profit-making company." For her part, Ms. Morgan, commissioner of the Laurentian School Board in Lacrosse, Que., says that YNN's news broadcasts might benefit students. But she added that it is unacceptable for a school to permit advertising in its classrooms. Referring to claims by YNN officials that advertising would play a small part in the network's operation, Morgan added: "If that advertising doesn't matter, why is it such an important part of the exercise?"

As well, the Canadian Association of Media Education Organizations has claimed that the news network has overstated the value of its



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Lust at the end of the line

The phone-sex business thrives on fantasy, loneliness

For about 10 hours a week, Ashley Pinbow sits at the north Toronto fax she shares with her husband and talks on the phone to total strangers about sex, graphically and explicitly. The calls, both men and women, pay \$10 for five minutes of erotic conversation, usually based on a sexual fantasy. "You never know what the person on the other end of the line wants from you," says the 35-year-old Pinbow. To those who ask her to play the role of a dominating woman, she speaks roughly, even phantasizes. By other callers she is more imaginative. Pinbow says that when the naive *Belles Arouses* was in theatres last year, several men who liked the Coorsman character asked her to work "the whips, the black strap, the lasso and the scorching hot" into her conversations. Helping lonely or overworked people to enjoy their fantasies has become a full-time job for hundreds of men and women, recruited by well-publicized, thriving—but controversial—phone-sex agencies in Quebec and Ontario. "It's a lucrative business," said Jules Goldstein, president of Money Marketing Inc., a Toronto-based company that operates sex lines in both provinces. "If there's more and more starting up, there's got to be a reason."

There are probably several reasons. One of them is the new technology. Push-button phones and voice-mail devices have allowed a range of answering, information and communication services to expand rapidly across the country for the past six years. In many parts of the country, there are phone numbers—some free, others not—for sports scores, weather forecasts, horoscopes, psychics, jokes, religious messages and general trivia. People shopping for a car—heterosexual or homosexual—can choose from hundreds of tape-recorded descriptions of cars and women. But the most substantial growth has probably been in Bell Canada's so-called STD Service in Ontario and Quebec—STD being the prefix in seven-digit numbers. And much of the action at the other end of the STD line is live, not recorded. So-called party lines and phone-sex services account for most of the business, a sort of the approximately 300 services currently available as the STD change, about 180 are what Bell calls "romance lines."

But for the women who work the sex-and-fantasy lines, the appeal is money, not romance. About two years ago, Pinbow responded to a newspaper ad that claimed that women could make as much as \$120 a day. Her training, she said, consisted of spending time in a sex room learning to women talk in a calm, quiet voice. She heard much of her job as a matter of fact that "when I get home after that first shift, I watched every *Playboy* issue I could find." She adds, "I'm a little bit of a tease." Currently, she says, she does an average of \$800 every two weeks after taxes—more than she earned in previous jobs behind an Eaton's jewelry counter and as a hand model for cable's *Home Shopping Club*. But that, Pinbow works on weekday afternoons and Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., answering calls that are automatically switched to her home phone. "I could make more if I wanted," she said, "but I just can't because I get so tired that

my voice becomes hoarse and I don't sound very sexy after a while."

While Pinbow has fished calls from unpleasant men and angry women, she said that most of her work is uneventful. Many of her callers, she said, are married men who claim that they "do not like seeing their wives doing things like anal sex and talking dirty." But she also gets calls from couples, who say that they are trying to spice up their sex lives, and from women who feel that "most of the men in their lives have never done anything for them." Her employers, a numbered company about which Pinbow professes to know nothing, have strict rules prohibiting any role-playing involving children, animals or race. "I wanted to be an actress," added Pinbow, "and I guess it's a way I can not."

Other women have taken to the work more easily. Tiffany, 24, who agreed to be interviewed under her work name only, said that she likes getting paid for doing something she enjoys talking. "I was always told as a child that I have the gift of the gab," said Tiffany. "And the guys enjoy it. We're providing a service." Tiffany said that she got involved in phone sex three years ago to raise money for her brother's funeral, after he was diagnosed with breast cancer. She would not reveal how much money she earns but said that she works between 40 and 60 hours a week and "I do well." Her sample does not reveal what she does for a living because, she said, "he does the real work on his hands."

To Tiffany and others, there are two reasons for the growth in popularity of phone-sex services: loneliness and AIDS. Like Pinbow, Tiffany said that many of the men who call her are married. "The loneliest one placed in that so soon as the wives say, 'I do,' they don't anymore," added Tiffany. "And this sure beats using a condom." She said that she has never become emotionally involved with a caller nor has

she lost any of the men. "We're not here to destroy marriages," she said. As for the charge, it represents value for money, said Tiffany, adding, "If we just gave it away, nobody would call."

Bell Canada does not put its STD lines—the cost of some STD services can be steep. For lines directed at teenagers, including the chat lines, callers are billed up to \$3 a call. For entertainment services, including the fantasy lines, cost up to \$10 for a five-minute call. Bell receives five per cent per call plus 27 cents for the first minute and 32 cents for each additional minute. In 1988, the STD numbers generated an estimated \$2 million in revenue for Bell in Ontario and Quebec. But with Bell Canada's total revenues at \$7.2 billion that same year, noted Bell spokesman Perry Hatcher, the STD services were not a major element in company profits.

Bell made from revenue, the STD lines have also presented friction for Bell. Some people have complained that their children, enticed by TV and newspaper ads for STD services, have run up huge phone bills. As a result, Bell made a service available in July, 1990, that, for \$4 a month, blocks calls from a subscriber's phone to the STD exchange. Bell also gets protests from subscribers—and sometimes—surprised at the idea of phone sex. Hatcher says that the only thing Bell can do is to routinely call the programs and make sure that they are not breaking the law. "The whole issue of STD is quite sensitive for us," he added. "We're in a difficult situation in that we have to

provide the service and fulfil our tariff obligations and satisfy the customer at the same time."

Telephone companies in other provinces have no so far shared away from doing revenue sharing deals with phone-sex companies. Gordon Lonsdale, public affairs spokesman at Maritime Tel & Tel in Halifax, which serves Nova Scotia and, through a subsidiary, Prince Edward Island, says that the profit aspect of the service may arouse some people with an ethical dilemma. "You've got to separate the medium and the message," he said. When the phone company is receiving a percentage of the revenue of a service, he said, "all of a sudden the medium versus the message becomes blurred. When there's revenue sharing, I think we have the responsibility to make sure it's profitable or not [profit]."

For his part, sex-line operator Goldstein maintains that the service is an important step by providing an outlet for sexual fantasy and frustration. "Loneliness is 99 per cent of this business—whether it's the young guy who stuck out at the bar or the woman who needs to talk to another woman," said Goldstein. "First, there are some needs and there, but maybe you're providing a positive outlet for someone as the street harassment." Goldstein says his company has supervisors who closely monitor the calls, and he dedicates the growing use of his tapes and sex lines. "Have you ever heard of anyone going in a bar and meeting someone decent?" says Goldstein. "We're providing something on the telephone that does not give AIDS. We're providing something that does not hurt anybody."

Some people, however, express concern that the phone-sex services are a slippery slope to a less than desirable attitude towards women. "Objectivists women leads to down the garden path to all sorts of other kinds of abuses and discrimination and women and every other kind of their perpetrated against us," says Joan Meister, the Vancouver-based secretary of the National Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. "We don't want to have the idea of a disposable woman." Meister also notes that phone-sex and fantasy lines may also be sending a bad message to young men. "What are we teaching these guys about their own sexual partner?" says Meister. "That it's not pleasant? Are they going to be in a sleep when I don't think so."

But many people agree that the growth in popularity of such practices as phone sex for heterosexuals and homosexuals is a result of such threats as the AIDS virus. "I think it's a reflection of the changed attitudes about the elements involved with more open sexuality," said John Lonsdale, a professor of criminology at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. "People, with their newly daring consciousness, create the market and the context for doing it."

To many of the people in the business, however, the reasons why phone sex and fantasies have become popular are not mysterious. And despite the criticism and complaints, many of them seem to be convinced that, unless the law changes, phone-sex and fantasy services are here to stay. "As long as there are men and women, they'll be popular," says Goldstein. "One thing I will never go out of style is sex."

NORA UNDERWOOD



Rebirth on the bayou

Why Cajuns squeeze their passion fish

PASSION FISH

Directed by John Sayles

It is a scene in the new movie by American writer-director John Sayles, a group of actresses from a TV soap opera visit a former cast member recovering from an accident. The actress who has replaced her tells a wonderfully funny, anecdotal story about how she finally landed a *Passion Fish* role, only to learn that it was a cameo about ocean algae in which she would have just one line: "I never asked for the part and the role." The anecdote is a key, literary-novelist-in-disguise. *Passion Fish*, a movie that seems to be no particular luxury to get anywhere else, according to Sayles, is at the least of scenes that would never make it to the screen but had to appear in a Hollywood movie. "All the young actresses are going to these screenwriting seminars," he said in an interview last week, "and their director is at the class. My feeling is that if there is no class, don't let it be. This is a movie where you have to spend time with the people and they have to spend time with each other."

Set in the bayou swampland of southwest Louisiana, *Passion Fish* is deliciously languid, slow-moving picture of a film. It is about two women going through different lines of recovery: Mary-Nice (Molly McDonnell), a soap-opera star, is paralyzed from the waist down after getting hit by a New York taxi cab while on her way to get her legs waxed. Moving back to Louisiana, and into the desolate family home, she lives a lonely life with her mother (Arlene Whelan), who is trying to rebuild her own life after a break with drug abuse.

Superficially, the premise has elements of a *Dead-end* or *Swamp* movie that *Passion Fish* is, in fact, a subtle drama with a comic edge. "Both women have had a dead end," says Sayles. "You could not imagine it to be a soap opera where life has just turned out for her they wanted it to." And at that scene, *Passion Fish* returns *The Return of the Swamp* (see page 36). The director's first feature, a story of Saint-Exupéry's message about their lives, it was a landmark for independent film-making.

Since then, Sayles has written and directed a diverse and distinctive body of work. In the

early 1980s he made whimsical movies about Louisiana (Louisiana's black-and-white film *Boys n' Nuts*) and a black-and-white film *The Brother from Another Planet*. He followed them with two acclaimed feature films: *Mulwau* (1986), the story of a coal miner's strike, and *Eight Men Out* (1988), the story of the 1919 Chicago Cubs baseball scandal.

As well as working as a screenwriter-director, Sayles still finds time to write plays, short stories and novels. "It's all storytelling to me,"



Howard (left), Strechman, McDonnell deliciously languid

and Sayles. In 1990, he completed another movie, a sprawling urban epic called *City of Hope*, and published a novel, *Joe Guzman*, about Cajun culture in Miami.

Passion Fish, meanwhile, grew in size that he had been incubating for years. In the 1970s, Sayles worked as an orderly in hospitals and nursing homes. "I remember being fascinated by the relationship I saw between patients and their families," he recalled. "It is a kind of forced marriage. I wanted the idea in my head for a long time, and now whether it would

be a short story, a book or a movie." A visit to Louisiana he added, convinced him to make it a movie with a pronounced Cajun setting.

The movie's stars—McDonnell, Woodard and David Strathairn—have all worked with Sayles before. McDonnell, in fact, landed her screen career in *Mulwau* and has since appeared in Hollywood movies including *Dances With Wolves* (1990) and *Grand Canyon* (1991). As the paraplegic Mary-Nice, she is an actress New York who comes to her first multi-ethnic, then bilingual film in Louisiana, also cultivating a bilingual and TV but never her match in the non-verbal Chantelle, who calls her parent "a bitch on wheels."

Although they are both clever about their past, details gradually seep into the story. Strathairn, who plays the doctor, has been with other. And both pursue tentative romances. Mary-Nice releases a teenage affair for her (see page 36). A young girl who is married with five children. And Chantelle casually tells the five-blended mother of a black-and-white couple (see page 36).

Curious (Hall).

At first, both women are fish out of water in Louisiana. And Sayles offers to their audience an experience with a non-verbal narrative that seems to weave its spell upon the audience's rhythm of the heart. At times, the director put subtitles in his hands, letting the camera capture the evocative music and landscape of Cajun culture. The location became an essential component of the story, and Sayles "If you're from this place, you would never forget it. And if you had to return here, feeling like a failure, there are things here that could seduce you out of that feeling."

Long after showing *Passion Fish*, Sayles was still looking for a life. He eventually found it in a scene that takes place during a boat ride through the bayou. Mary-Nice and Chantelle watch Renee, a fish and pull a couple of mannequins from a cage. Facing one of each woman's hand, he says, "I suppose that's the fish, right? Think about someone you want some love from."

When Chantelle asks if he is making it up, he says, "Over since there have been Cajuns they been speaking the passion fish—some say you got to swallow them raw." The legend sounds as if it could have come from a Cajun folklore. But it was Sayles who made it up. "I knew not to be a pretty good metaphor for these two women," he said—and for a doctor who learned to ignore small miracles from a French physician.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

BOOKS

War and terror

An explosive tale detonates in Beirut

INSUBRIABLE

By Oriana Fallaci

(Knopf, 399 pages, \$35)

In the photograph on the dust jacket of her new novel, Oriana Fallaci is classically serene: face statue with ascending collar. Into the camera, she is smilingly hostile look, as if they are at a party with both good and bad—just that set. It's all right, right from the very first page and it takes forever to consume it. The Italian journalist is well known for her aggressive

temper the Italian with thousands of death. The serene, courageous composure of the Italian, to wonderfully captured by Fallaci, has a special resonance for Catholics, whose peace-loving beliefs have also endured, in the novel's complex plot. "The shared ground of a soldier who can't use his weapons is hell."

Search the anatomy of this soldier's story, Fallaci's characters are a highly varied lot, from Godard, the Israeli general, to Martin, the American journalist, to a former member of the Italian army, to a former member

of the civil war has the haunting eloquence of a mother mourning a dead child. At other times, Fallaci's grieving has an almost surgical edge. When an Italian soldier, Russo, is shot in the head by a random bullet, Fallaci takes several pages to trace the history of the projectile, from its creation in the United States to the moment when it is landing near Russo's head, tracing through the assassins of his boyfriend. Delivered as coolly as a laboratory report that with an underlying irony, it is one of the least solemn passages in the novel.

Yet Fallaci's passion can grow grating. She is too fond of manipulating her readers to make them feel, as when she gently reminds them of the death of a young girl, a hydrophobic Beirut child, the family and family members around her bed. And like many people of extreme conviction, Fallaci uses comedy with an uncertain touch. Her supposedly comic creation Gino Hesse—in Italian often abused with abusing the *Repubblica*—is a crumb line. On the other hand, when she details the daring resistance of several Italians with an infinitely well-timed *Repubblica* Lady Godiva, Fallaci is both funny and profound. *Insolent* controls almost every one of these novel can. It is, at times, dull, tedious, pretentious and melodramatic. But it manages to take of these fans and proceed towards its heart-stopping conclusion, as the Italian people—and extreme part—to and back to Italy. Like an exploding grenade, *Insolent* makes of these fragments of the rest of their world. But the ones that strike home are devastating.

JUDY DEMME

Maclean's

BEST-SELLER LIST

FICITION

- 1 *Drifters & Strangers*, *Beckett* (3)
- 2 *Solomon's Mistake*, *Beckett* (3)
- 3 *The English Patient*, *DeLia* (3)
- 4 *Along Came a Spider*, *J. Patterson*
- 5 *Deliver Us from Evil*, *King* (4)
- 6 *Merely Human*, *Adams*
- 7 *Shirley's Dream*, *Lang* (4)
- 8 *Debris of Gull*, *J. Patterson* (3)
- 9 *The Tale of the Holy Thief*, *For* (3)
- 10 *David's Walls*, *Kalish* (3)

NONFICTION

- 1 *Shining Stars*, *For* (3)
- 2 *Where Was Your Will With the Values*, *For* (3)
- 3 *Who's It All About?*, *For* (3)
- 4 *The Ways of Henry VII*, *For* (3)
- 5 *Widowhood*, *McLennan* (3)
- 6 *Madness Nowhere*, *Widowhood*
- 7 *Widowhood*, *McLennan* (3)
- 8 *Madness Nowhere*, *Widowhood*
- 9 *Madness Nowhere*, *Widowhood*
- 10 *Madness Nowhere*, *Widowhood*

Compiled by Janet Deane



Fallaci: a tone of feverish lawsuit, like a half-wild chorus from a Greek tragedy

and penetrating statements with the great and powerful of the world, men such as Henry Kissinger and the Shah of Iran. But she has written eight novels, including the extraordinary *Deliver Us from Evil*. After her new book, a tale of Italian terrorism, is a war-torn Beirut, where between Israelis and self-satisfied, in the end the brilliance of the novel is that it is a masterpiece of the novel.

Insolent opens just after the 1982 suicide bombing of the Israeli embassy in Beirut. Two weeks of explosions, driven by Islamic terrorism, have killed more than 200 people, the United Nations of the multinational force forces that a third week will be decided against them. Fallaci focuses on a detail in several of the Italian as they attempt to guarantee their lives and get out of the impossible task of keeping war-torn Lebanon and Muslim two tons apart. The air is alive with army bullets, while children armed with grenades and rifles

emerge who loves a mysterious Beirut woman called Nasser. These somewhat stark figures gradually take on individuality as Fallaci explores their inner lives (especially, her character Nasser, and gradually themselves, when writing or talking with others, but not involving, in long interview passages on their own troubles. That method of presentation makes much of the novel seem rather static, although Fallaci always manages to break the logjam with an exciting bit of action. *Insolent* is both a war novel and a novel of war. It depicts the terrible, spontaneous beauty of battle and its tragic wastefulness. Fallaci leaves a lot about pain and what they do. But what makes her descriptions of destruction this powerful is her characteristic tone of feverish lawsuit, like a half-wild chorus from a Greek tragedy.

That tone gives some extraordinary passages. Her description of Beirut as the days



Memories of a time that never changes

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

In Saskatoon, in winter, with the stream inside broader channels freezing the night or over the South Saskatchewan, the most pleasant place to town is Parkhill No. 3. This is because—in glass-biding doors, as it is called—there is a restaurant, recently restored and decorated by its new owners and called, cleverly, Parkhill No. 3.

It's in Broadview. Every time has a Broadway. Even New York, strangely enough, has a Broadway. Saskatoon's Broadway is where the action is now, as the South Saskatchewan flows south into Alberta and Medicine Hat and the North Saskatchewan meanders up to Alberta and Edmonton and joins the Athabasca on eventual arrival of its water through the Mackenzie into the Arctic Ocean.

A stranger to town, chewing over his park ride with pleasant companions and gliding through the vast glass doors, suddenly opens across the road a scene out of a fairy's dream. A clutch of youths, perhaps eight or 10, ranging from six years to teenage boys, all in their Toronto Hockey jerseys, skating in the dark as those semi-erect pickup games on a farmlike little rink, their breath hanging in the air.

To be stronger, it brings it all back. Skate all after school, again at night. Mothers gliding through the back doors to come to her home-work or warmth or lot of trouble and children, all of the warnings meaning nothing save a dream and so left wing of the Toronto Maple Leafs was surely in the future.

It's now Gordie Howe and Nick Metz and all the Hawks and Blues, Lach and Ted Rink, known it, as a former player, not some artificial coach in an arena with a Howe-Metzer-trusted coach and stage mothers sitting hunched to the cold, watching their darlings.

The stranger finds a hard explosion of this to his pleasant companions. Looking like a clown, from the wings, attempting to evoke an era when every boy on the Prairie, his Ken-Haw-Care-Sing-creases going to be somewhere in Ontario to return a stand-up photo of Ted Davidson—such, he or so, no better; no worse, her dad's dad, the 10-year-old, the 10-year-old.



two—a guy who probably made up to \$5,000 a year for being the chucky forward to Apps and Dellen.

One wonders, as the vice flows, whether those kids outside the windows dream in their nover of warming—some dry—the famous sweaters of the Anaheim Pingu Ducks? As they fly over the snowbird hounds of their imaginary rink, do they feel in their hearts to be no more-faster leavers wearing the jersey of the Tampa Bay Lightning?

It there a single one of them, as their mothers call one last time from the back seats, who want to their secret dreams to be a Stan Joe Shred? One wonders and wonders. The goodly new promises of the Canadian Football League have just been given to him in three small on Tessa—can he be he be behind? Is there a juvenile left winger in Saskatoon who actually looks to be a hockey player?

The young proprietor, who has the fiery

checked fringes of Montgomery Clift, is particularly proud of his semi-sentimental. Over the jewel of Saskatoon was the Capital Theatre, one of those wonders of the Thirties that were the centre of culture and decorated in the manner.

The modern age, of course, rendered the property too suitable for such trivial pursuits, an attraction tower holding much more to those to whom land is everything. As the cold city fathers put the theatre under the wrecked car's bell, the fireball theatre and friends rescued the magnificent chandeliers, the ornate lighting fixtures and the fire escape, well, elegant.

Old player two American movies, in the 1940s, are doing a railway tour of the Great White North. Train stops in Saskatoon station. Moore looks out the window to address a local lot, looking in mostly, looking against the station and says here where she is "Saskatoon Saskatchewan," he offers. She turns to her companion. "Isn't that delightful. They don't speak English." Old joke.

The deer media a Canadian classic that is all about a hockey player. Rich Carver's unforgettable story about the Quebec boy who comes in the night, out the Montreal Canadiens jersey his mother ordered, but the idea of the Toronto Maple Leafs and, to each dream and campaign, must wear it in the game. There is Canada over. He sends the story on the Peter Goulet show every so often a response to constant requests.

They are having some trouble with the wheel, as with all new restaurants. Parkhill No. 3 opened on Nov. 30. They have some trouble with the wheel, as with all new restaurants. Parkhill No. 3 opened on Nov. 30. They have some trouble with the wheel, as with all new restaurants.

get a protective shield around the former's pain on the second floor seen in opening night two ladies—the wine must have been good then—inspired an sliding down it, with not entirely satisfactory results.

This very day, Saskatoon has been the venue for the largest protest rally of farmers ever held in Western Canada. Quiet and orderly, 12,700 farmers gathered to express their bitterness over their economic plight, brought about by an international trade war between heavily subsidized French and American farmers that has driven the price of wheat to Depression-levels.

The town of Wilket, which seemed Gordie Howe, who will be 60 next month, a night outside Saskatoon. It is now 10 p.m. and, the last mother apparently having gone up there are two lone gentlemen on the rink, one goalie and one shooter, still doing the last bit out of the moon. Saskatchewan will survive.



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